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The new, mature Shalom Hanoch
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Saddam Hussein's fatal family feud
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Sharansky, peeved, to boycott today's cabinet meeting

By SARAH HONIG
Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky of Yisrael Ba'aliya will boycott today's weekly cabinet session to underscore his serious rift with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, until recently a close personal friend.

"This is a serious crisis," Sharansky stressed yesterday, adding that he is "saying nothing veiled and nothing by way of a hint. I am officially registering my disappointment."

The Prime Minister's Office made no less than 10 attempts to reach Sharansky by phone, but all of the calls were answered by his staff with the claim that "the minister is too busy to talk."

Last night, Israel Radio reported that Netanyahu succeeded in reaching Sharansky by phone, but Sharansky remained adamant in his refusal to attend the cabinet meeting. Sources close to the prime minister maintained last night that no conversation had taken place at all. Despite all of this, sources close to

Netanyahu sought to belittle the rift and describe it as "an artificial crisis which appeared at a curious time that happens to coincide with the fact that leading Yisrael Ba'aliya members are being questioned about their links to [Zvi Ben-Ari, also known as] Gregory Lerner."

Yisrael Ba'aliya sources said that Netanyahu's aides choosing to mention the Ben-Ari affair will only have the effect of fanning the flames.

Sharansky ascribed the crisis to "the failure by the prime minister

to live up to his undertakings."

In Netanyahu's office, however, it was argued that "he had fulfilled all obligations to Yisrael Ba'aliya, as to the other coalition

partners, within the limitations imposed by budgetary constraints." But the immediate trigger to the row was apparently the appointment of Foreign Ministry veteran Herzl Inbar as the new ambassador to Russia. Yisrael Ba'aliya claimed that it had received a promise that the ambassador would only be picked with its consent, and presumably that he would come from its ranks.

Inbar was selected by the Foreign Ministry's professional staff committee, and is regarded

by the committee as its most outstanding recent achievement. Inbar had not been chosen by

Sharansky meets Barak, Page 17

Levy personally.

For its part, Yisrael Ba'aliya had insisted from the outset on this appointment going to one of its

people, almost as a psychological proof of its constituency both here and in Russia of its success and thereby also the success of the immigration from the CIS.

Caught almost helplessly in this tug of war is Netanyahu, whose people insisted there had been no promise to appoint a member of Yisrael Ba'aliya to the Moscow post and that Netanyahu had evinced goodwill and a readiness to consult with the party.

See BOYCOTT, Page 2



Natan Sharansky (Ariel Jerozolimski)

Rioting erupts in Gaza
By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Fierce violence broke out between Palestinians and IDF soldiers in two areas of Gush Katif yesterday, and resulted in the death of Abdel Karim Karawi, the injury of two Palestinians, and the blocking of the area's main road for several hours.

Two separate incidents of shots fired at Israeli vehicles were reported. In the first incident, an IDF vehicle accompanying a procession of cars, including the vehicle taking National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to a waiting helicopter, was hit.

An aide traveling with Sharon, who had attended a ceremony in the area, said that they heard the shots, but doubted they had been aimed at Sharon.

See GAZA, Page 14



An IDF armored personnel carrier rolls into position near the Morag junction in the Gaza Strip yesterday, as Palestinians riot over land confiscation. (Reuters)

El-Baz fails in talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY
Egyptian mediator Osama el-Baz failed to bring Israeli and Palestinian officials back to the negotiating table yesterday, despite consecutive sessions with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The stalemate may have been precipitated by Palestinian pique over the US House of Representatives' resolution declaring Jerusalem as Israel's undisputed capital and by Israel's concern over the mini-intifada in Gush Katif.

El-Baz's meetings were to have been followed by a second round of talks between the two negotiat-

ing teams, led by cabinet secretary Danny Naveh and PA chief negotiator Saeb Erekat.

But neither Netanyahu nor Arafat briefed their respective personnel, presumably because no new diplomatic ground had been broken.

During their one-hour meeting in Tel Aviv, Netanyahu and el-Baz tried to bridge the gap between Israel and the PA over the construction on Har Homa, in southern Jerusalem.

The PA has been demanding a six-month settlement freeze in the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem as a prerequisite for convening final-status talks.

See EL-BAZ, Page 2

'Post' reporter wins JDC journalism award
By Jerusalem Post Staff

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has awarded Jerusalem Post defense correspondent Arieh O'Sullivan its newly inaugurated Smolar Award for Journalism on Israel-Diaspora Relations.

O'Sullivan, 36, was recognized for his November 1996 article "Moved to Serve," which explored the experiences and motivations of three immigrants who left the comforts of their homelands to serve in combat units in the IDF.

The JDC set up the Smolar Award to increase understanding of the Diaspora among Israelis, said Ralph Goldman, honorary vice president of the JDC and chairman of the panel that chose O'Sullivan's article from among over two dozen submitted by Israeli journalists from all media.

This article provides important

insight to Israeli readers about just how important Israel is to Jewish life in the Diaspora," Goldman said. "It can contribute to a great understanding among Israelis of the sensitivities that Diaspora Jews bring to their relationship with Israel."

O'Sullivan, a native of New Orleans, said the soldiers he interviewed were the real heroes since they were the ones giving Israelis a better comprehension of Diaspora Jewish values, Zionism, and motivation.

"Still, it's satisfying for any journalist to see his work making an impact and hopefully having an effect on society," O'Sullivan said.

The award and its \$2,500 prize was named for and funded by the late Boris Smolar, former editor-in-chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. O'Sullivan said he was donating a part of his prize to the Israel Hemophilia Association.



Arieh O'Sullivan (Ariel Jerozolimski)

Is the government ready for the 2000 problem?

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
When January 1, 2000, arrives, Israelis could wake up to find that their national insurance benefits are not arriving, their income tax file is nowhere to be found, and their education records indicate they never completed the first grade.

The 20th century may have augured in the technology age, but a small glitch in the system may wreak havoc when the new millennium arrives. Known alternately as the Millennium Bug, or Y2K, the glitch reflects a short-cut computer programmers took in order to save byte space.

Instead of putting in four digits for the year, programmers dropped the first two numbers and entered years by their last two digits - for example, "97" was input instead of "1997."

Unless the systems are taught to recognize the year 2000,

when the dawn of the new century arrives computers will read the year as "00," and revert back to 1900 or simply go out of whack.

Unable to move ahead to the next century, confused computerized weapons systems could lose track of their missiles, stock markets could crash, and airplanes could get lost in mid-flight, as air traffic systems fail.

"The alarm bell has rung," says Jim Sinur, vice president of research for the Gartner Group, the venerable US research organization.

In Israel, analysts are offering a mixed bag of forecasts regarding the government's readiness for the year 2000. The Treasury has set mid-1998 as the deadline by which each ministry has to solve the problem and is requiring all ministries to work within their given budgets.

Three ways to solve the problem exist: Buy a Y2K-friendly

computer system; divert in-house resources so that computer technicians spend their days going through an organizations' tens of thousands of lines of code; or buy appropriate software solutions and external advisory services.

Either way, the cost of fixing the problem is rising exponentially.

While it currently costs \$1.10 for each line of code, that is expected to rise to \$2.20 by 1998, and to continue multiplying as doomsday nears.

The Treasury, Bank of Israel and IDF say they have either solved the problem, or are on top of it and expect to have it solved soon.

See 2000, Page 19

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US survey suggests J'lem compromise possible

20% of Palestinians and 40% of Israelis recognize that the other side has rights in the capital

By JON IMMANUEL

A survey on Palestinian attitudes toward Jerusalem indicates that there is some basis for believing an agreement could be reached that would be acceptable to most Israelis, according to researcher Jerome Segal.

Segal's survey, conducted for the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland in August and September 1996, was completed before the Jerusalem tunnel riots began a spiraling confrontation over Jerusalem. A companion survey on Israeli attitudes was completed just after the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

However, Segal says his findings still hold, namely that if Palestinians were to receive sovereignty over the areas of Jerusalem most important to them, which are mostly those areas least important to Israelis, agreement could be reached.

The figures, however, show the two sides are still very far from an agreement on this. In a December poll by the Nablus-based

Center for Research and Studies on the six-point "Beilin-Abu Mazen plan," Palestinian support on the Jerusalem aspect of the plan scored lowest by far.

However, at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday, Segal, who once produced a draft Palestinian constitution, warned of the dangers of postponing the Jerusalem issue until everything else is settled, since he said that would emphasize the religious character of the dispute over Jerusalem, which would otherwise be subsumed in the overall political solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"A Jerusalem-centered conflict can be more explosive than a Palestinian-Israeli conflict," he said.

With the aim of expediting an understanding on Jerusalem, Segal and his coresearcher Nader Said emphasized its more positive aspects. Among the most contentious issues - control over holy sites - the researchers found that 64 percent of Palestinians compared to 35% of Israelis supported the idea that sovereignty "should belong to God."

They noted that 20% of Palestinians and 40% of Israelis recognized that the other side had legitimate rights in the city, a basis from which he said it could be possible to build a majority on both sides. Both people view the Jerusalem boundaries as policy instruments rather than as sacrosanct, he noted.

The basic situation is that 67% of Palestinians would consider "a special arrangement" for Jewish neighborhoods established across the Green Line, while 53% would consider Israeli sovereignty over Jewish neighborhoods in the Old City if Palestinians got sovereignty over their Old City neighborhoods.

However, any proposal falling short of Palestinian sovereignty in a large part of Arab-populated areas seemed, on the basis of the survey, destined for collapse, with Jerusalem residents being among the most radical on this point, despite their acquisition of Israeli residency rights.

870 interviewees participated in the survey, which had a 3% margin of error.



Heading for a fall
Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani tries out one of the motorcycles belonging to the Tel Aviv police's new motorcycle unit, at the unit's inauguration ceremony yesterday. After warning the police to ride carefully, Kahalani took a short test drive and fell off the motorcycle. Kahalani, who has a motorcycle license, wasn't injured. (Text: him; Photo: Israel Sen)

Settlers demand probe of suspected land dealer abduction

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza demanded yesterday that the government investigate claims that an alleged Palestinian land dealer and eight members of his family were kidnapped from their

home on Wednesday.

In a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Or, coordinator of activities in the territories, the council said the Palestinians are allegedly being questioned in Dahariya prison.

Winning numbers and cards

The winning numbers in yesterday's Lotto draw were 10, 13, 18, 20, 36 and 46. The additional number was 34.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis Chance draw No. 160, the winning cards were the ace of spades, jack of hearts, king of diamonds, and king of clubs. In draw No. 161, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, eight of hearts, eight of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

In yesterday's Payis Hazak draw, ticket number 189744 on the NIS 1 million prize, while ticket number 560292 won a car. Tickets 862329, 415579, 899007, 210897, 611337, 465680, 013210, and 525958 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 42287, 18770, 57555, 57205, 09885, 94498, 84064, 96440, 16281, 58597, 96633, 17170, 08901, 61772, 59284, 76971, 55655, 36107, and 02963 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 746, 057, 517, and 714 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 29 and 82, won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 8 and 2 won NIS 10.

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Leonard Davis (Isaac Harari)

CORRECTION

In Tuesday's report on the confirmation of Leonard Davis, former director of AIPAC's Israel office, as the political minister at the embassy in Washington, we inadvertently published a photo of the late philanthropist Leonard Davis.

BOYCOTT

Continued from Page 1

While Netanyahu was unable to reach Sharan, he did talk to Foreign Minister David Levy, who offered to reopen all recent diplomatic appointments. This was seen as a threat to Netanyahu, as the recent appointments included that of his adviser Dore Gold as UN ambassador.

While Sharan was unable to take Netanyahu's phone calls, he did write him a letter which said that "I had made it clear that I can continue to belong to this government only if the recommendations of the committee on senior appointments," set up after the Bar-On Affair and headed by Sharan and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, "are fully accepted. You must fully adopt these recommendations without delay."

The recommendations were added last night to today's cabinet agenda. They were already deliberated by the ministers last week, when there was considerable opposition to them, despite Netanyahu's initial support.

But as things stood late last night, the only Yisrael Ba'alya representative at the cabinet session will be Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who will be there to defend his party's interest on the issue of job opportunities for immigrant scientists.

EL-BAZ

Continued from Page 1

El-Baz then proceeded to Ramallah for a two-hour session with Arafat and other Palestinian negotiators. He left immediately afterward for Cairo, saying mediation efforts would continue, while expressing the hope that "a positive spirit will lead to a breakthrough in the situation that will allow the peace process to be preserved."

After the meeting, Arafat convened his close aides, and Palestinian sources said the gaps between the two sides apparently remained wide.

Speaking immediately after the Netanyahu-el-Baz discussion, Naveh said he was "not convinced that an Israeli-Egyptian-Palestinian meeting will take place today."

However, he said Israel did not negate holding one - even though more work is required at the technical level.

Erekat reportedly said yesterday's meeting "demonstrated that there is a gap between the two sides." But he deemed it premature to draw conclusions about the el-Baz mission.

Netanyahu's director of communications, David Bar-Ilan, tried to put an optimistic spin on the day's talks. "What hopeful is that they are going on," he said.

But privately, sources contended that the stage may have been reached in which the US, which recommended Egyptian mediation, should inform Cairo that "there must be concrete results, otherwise there is no point to the exercise."

Palestinian observers dismissed the Egyptian effort as a gimmick meant to improve Egypt's image in Washington. "That is why el-Baz is following in the footsteps of [US peace envoy] Dennis Ross," one of them said. "But protocol and format are not the problem; its core is Israel's ongoing settlement activity."

Unsettling skepticism about the wisdom of the Netanyahu government's having asked Egypt to mediate was expressed yesterday by Hebrew University Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Porat.

He contended that it is against Israel's national interest to have asked Egypt to arbitrate because of its "hostility" and its prolonged campaign to undermine Israel's diplomatic and economic links with African and other Third World countries.

Angry Palestinian reactions to the US Congress's vote on Jerusalem were constant in the el-Baz-Arafat dialogue, the initial phase of which was a one-on-one exchange. The two had lunch together, after which they were joined by their aides.

Arafat assailed the American legislators for condemning the recent murders of Palestinian land dealers, declaring that "today there is a conspiracy against the peace process."

Arafat told Palestinian students that "Israel must understand that Jerusalem is the Palestinian nation's capital and will remain forever as an Arab, Islamic, and Christian capital."

He accused Netanyahu of authorizing construction at Har Homa in order to put up hotels there and steal the tourists who are scheduled to visit nearby Bethlehem in the year 2000.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

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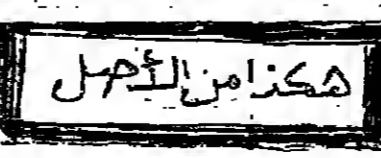
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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

Get ready for the next scandal

What a great place to live. As of yet, we don't know who will be questioned in the affair, except that the press is saying there will be three ministers and five MKs, plus numerous high level politicians who had dealings with Ben-Ari.

While in the Bar-On affair, one man, Deri, allegedly wanted Roni Bar-On as attorney-general to further his own legal interests, in the Ben-Ari case, the accused allegedly wanted to further his business interests so much that he covered all bets and either contributed or tried to contribute to Likud, Labor and Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Whereas the Bar-On affair pitted Sephardim against Ashkenazim, the new affair — with Natan Sbaransky and his Yisrael Ba'aliya party allegedly involved — will pit immigrants from the former Soviet Union against veterans.

"The attacks against the new immigrants only strengthens us," Yisrael Ba'aliya activist Efraim Melamed was quoted as saying yesterday, apparently taking his cue from Shas statements made after the attorney-general decided to indict Deri over Bar-On. "If they continue to scream from morning to night that we are con-

necting to the Russian Mafia, we will get 14 seats in the next Knesset, not seven."

The "Don't Know" defense will surely be used in the Ben-Ari case, as it was in the Bar-On case. Just as Netanyahu said he didn't know there was any pressure to appoint Bar-On, so MKs and ministers who may have received money or services from Ben-Ari will surely say they did not know the source of that money.

And, as in the Bar-On affair, the public's knowledge of the whole investigation is coming from leaks to the press. Once again we are all waiting for word from the police about who is involved, and how deep.

Ironically, the 1994 amendment to the 1973 Financing of Parties Law was enacted to put an end to the type of influence peddling alleged in the Ben-Ari case.

Prior to 1994, candidates could receive NIS 24,000 from individual donors. This amount was cut by the amendment to NIS 1,200 during election years, and NIS 600 during ordinary ones. Furthermore, the contributions must come from voters, and can not come from organizations or institutions. To make up for the lost revenue, the state increased public funding to the par-

ties by some 30 percent.

The law dealing with contributions to candidates in primaries is a little more lenient, with the ceiling being NIS 6,100. Furthermore, this law limits the money any candidate can spend to NIS 300,000. The loophole in this law is that it is in effect only nine months before the primary. Prior to that time, there are no limits to what a candidate can raise.

Anna Schneider, the legal advisor to the Knesset Finance Committee, said the amendment to the Party Financing Law was enacted specifically to reduce the chances of influence peddling, of one candidate becoming too dependent on a giver.

In other words, the rules for campaign giving are very well sorted out. Whether people abide by them, however, is a different question altogether. If Ben-Ari did indeed exceed the campaign limits in contributions to any of the parties, he wouldn't be the first.

In March, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat slapped fines for funding irregularities totaling more than NIS 6.6 million on six parties, with Labor and Likud each being fined more than NIS 2m. In imposing these fines, Ben-Porat said she was "lenient," since the laws were new. Next time, she warned, the penalties would be much more severe. Next time, it seems, may have already arrived... and with a vengeance.



Zvi Ben-Ari
(Israel Sun)

Tichon calls for speedy probe of MKs

By LIAT COLLINS and SARAH HONIG

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has asked that the police investigation into the possible funding of political parties by Zvi Ben-Ari (previously known as Gregory Lerner), who is suspected of several crimes both here and in Russia, be finished as quickly as possible to lift the shadow which is hanging over MKs from at least three parties.

Yesterday, it was reported that Nissim Zvili, who resigned as Labor Party secretary-general last week, is the first MK likely to be asked to give evidence in the case. Police reportedly plan to question several MKs from Labor, Yisrael Ba'aliya, and possibly the Likud, but at this stage none is expected to be questioned under caution.

Among those likely to be questioned are Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky and Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, both from Yisrael Ba'aliya, who apparently accepted funds from Ben-Ari for a non-political immigrants' organization they were involved in, and Sofa Landver from Labor who apparently introduced Ben-Ari to Zvili.

Landver admitted yesterday that she had arranged a meeting between Ben-Ari and Ehud Barak, before he became Labor chairman. Landver says that she had heard Ben-Ari was a rich man and that she therefore had gone to him to

solicit a contribution for a large children's event held under the auspices of the Soviet Immigrants Association, which she headed.

She said the event "was conceived to combat the awful stigma attached to Russian-speaking immigrants. I went to Lerner at my own initiative, and found a



Nissim Zvili
(Isaac Harari)

highly intelligent, cultured man, and he graciously and very willingly wrote out a check for us. I urged Barak to meet him and ask him to continue contributing to our cause and Barak indeed met him at my request."

Landver said it never occurred to her that there was ever anything tainted about Ben-Ari and that he himself had not asked to meet her nor did he ask for anything in return.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told reporters yesterday that politicians knew that Ben-Ari was rich, but did not check the source of his wealth.

"But I don't think they deliberately sinned by accepting money for this or that organization. We must see whether everything was done legally, but I don't think that political figures worked deliberately in cooperation with Lerner," Kahalani said.

Sharansky told Israel Radio he wanted to find the truth behind Ben-Ari as soon as possible. "I have said repeatedly that Yisrael Ba'aliya and Russian immigrants are more interested than anyone else in discovering the truth. I welcome the police investigation and I would personally be happy to cooperate with it in any way possible."

MK Moshe Shahal (Labor), former internal security minister, said it is possible that during the inquiry into the Ben-Ari case, the police will discover other possible incidents in which elements suspected of involvement with international crime tried to obtain political influence here.

Meanwhile, Ben-Ari appealed to Tel Aviv District Court yesterday against his remand for 15 days on Monday. He argued that he is being discriminated against compared to the other suspects in the case, who were released on bail. The court will hear the appeal next week.

Court to rule Sunday on Bar-On petitions

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Political and legal circles have gone into high gear in anticipation of Sunday's ruling by the High Court of Justice on whether the prime minister and justice minister should be indicted for their parts in the Bar-On affair.

Five justices — Shlomo Levin, Eliezer Goldberg, Theodor Or, Yitzhak Zamir, and Dalia Dorn — have been deliberating the matter since May 14, when a series of petitions came before them in the wake of the Rubinstein-Arbel report on the investigation into the affair. Court President Aharon Barak disqualified himself from sitting on the panel since he had been questioned by police in the investigation.

On Sunday, the justices will hand down their ruling on four petitions.

Two separate petitions — submitted by Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and by Labor MK Yona Yahav — call for indictments against both the prime minister and justice minister, as recommended by a minority of the investigative team in the State Attorney's Office.

A third, by Labor MK Ophir Pines, requests an indictment against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu alone, the first time in the state's history that such an indictment would be brought against the premier.

Another petition, submitted by the Movement for Quality Government, asks that Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi be removed from office "for failing to act according to accepted norms" of public behavior.

The court also will give its reasons for turning down — during its marathon session on the petitions a month ago — requests from Sarid and Yahav to make public the minority recommendations in the report and the recommendations of the police investigative team calling for indictments all round.

In the Justice Ministry, officials expressed the opinion that the court would uphold the position of the prosecution that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision not to prosecute

Netanyahu and Hanegbi, for lack of prima facie evidence, was "reasonable."

A ministry spokesman also said there were "not yet" further developments with regard to the investigation into the part played in the affair by Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. The Rubinstein-Arbel report recommended additional investigations with regard to his role.

The spate of petitions was touched off after the report found grounds for prosecuting only the fourth key figure in the Bar-On affair, Shas MK Aryeh Deri. He was allegedly behind a deal to appoint Roni Bar-On as attorney-general in order to win a plea-bargain in his ongoing fraud and bribery case.

While the legal means of further indictments were being explored in court, Deri supporters throughout the country began vociferous demonstrations, charging that the MK had been the victim of ethnic discrimination — demonstrations which reached even the courtyard of the Supreme Court.

A petition calling on Rubinstein to withdraw the indictment also was circulated, but later withdrawn.

Meanwhile, Deri appealed to Rubinstein to postpone the ongoing hearings in his fraud and bribery case so that these would not be influenced by the allegations levelled against him in the report. Rubinstein rejected the request.

For his part, Netanyahu declared that his non-culpability had been vindicated by the report.

At the same time, a grass-roots movement collected some 60,000 signatures calling for a judicial commission of inquiry into the affair. The High Court, however, turned down a petition requesting an order for such a commission.

The events of the past few months have had concrete effects on the activities of the Justice Ministry, where many issues have been put on hold pending the court decisions. These include the future of Hanegbi — or his recently acquitted predecessor, Ya'acov Ne'eman — as minister.

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1 פ"ח



US troops escort a vehicle carrying American citizens through Brazzaville on their way to the city's airport to be evacuated. (Reuters)

Cease-fire appears to hold in Congo

BRAZZAVILLE (AP) — A cease-fire called by rival factions began taking hold in the capital yesterday, easing fighting that has left neighborhoods lined with rotting corpses. French soldiers rescued more civilians from Brazzaville neighborhoods, where militia fighters — mostly teen-age boys with guns — roamed. Sporadic fighting flared despite the day-old truce. "The heaviest fighting has stopped," French Ambassador Raymond Cesaire said yesterday morning. "I hope and believe the cease-fire will take hold." Hours later, a French soldier was wounded in the knee from a stray bullet. Shooting picked up in intensity around the French Embassy at about 3 p.m., but there was none of the artillery fire or shelling that had rocked the capital overnight and on previous days. Government troops controlling the area near the embassy positioned themselves in a

drainage ditch behind a line of mounted assault rifles. President Pascal Lissouba and militia leader Gen. Denis Sassou-Nguesso announced their truce following seven days of clashes that broke out when Lissouba attempted to disarm Sassou-Nguesso's private Cobra militia. The two men have been bitter rivals for years, and tensions have increased in the run-up to July presidential elections that both plan to contest. Lissouba, who defeated Sassou-Nguesso in 1992 elections, said he wanted to immobilize Sassou-Nguesso's men to prevent campaign violence. Sassou-Nguesso, the former military ruler, says Lissouba was trying to spark clashes so he could have an excuse to delay the vote and retain power. Combatants say the latest fighting has killed hundreds, mainly civilians, but aid

workers have been unable to assess the casualty toll themselves. Journalists accompanying a French military convoy through the Cobra-held Mpila neighborhood yesterday saw the body of a child apparently killed in cross-fire, blood from a head wound pooling near his school bag. A man lay dead in a doorway among the burned buildings and bullet-pocked walls — a looter, fighters said. The smell of decomposing bodies wafted through streets littered with spent cartridges, clothing, papers, appliances, furniture and other goods dropped or discarded by looters. A rebel militia commander, Roch Ipangue, offered a tour of the area near the Russian Embassy compound, where the French soldiers picked up about a dozen fighters. "We are ready to respect the cease-fire. We didn't shoot last night, but the other side are idiots," Ipangue said.

McVeigh jurors told to 'look in a coward's eye'

DENVER (AP) — A prosecutor asked jurors yesterday to "look into the eyes of a coward" and give Timothy McVeigh the death penalty for killing 168 people in the worst act of terrorism in US history. "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, it's time. It's time for justice," prosecutor Beth Wilkinson said in her closing statement of the penalty phase. "This is the crime that the death penalty was designed for." The same panel that convicted McVeigh of murder and conspiracy charges last week will decide whether he should die by injection or get life behind bars for the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing. A decision for the death penalty must be unanimous. Although all of the jurors told attorneys they could consider the death penalty, Colorado juries as a rule have been reluctant to impose the ultimate punishment. The state has five people on death row, among the lowest number in America and hasn't executed anybody since 1967. Wilkinson said the 29-year-old Gulf War veteran acted out of a false, delusional sense of patriotism that led him to believe "it was his right to murder innocent men, women and children." The victims ranged from 4 months to 73 years old. She said McVeigh "declared war on his fellow Americans" to avenge the deadly siege at Waco, Texas, exactly two years before the Oklahoma City bombing. Wilkinson dismissed as "pathetic" the defense using McVeigh's anger over Waco in its case to spare him the death penalty. Eighty-one people died in the fire that destroyed the Branch Davidian compound, which was surrounded by federal authorities, and the episode has become a rallying cry for anti-government and militia movements across the United States.

The defense used videotapes and magazines to try to explain McVeigh's rage over the incident to jurors. McVeigh's parents testified on behalf of their son Wednesday. "I still to this very day cannot believe he could have caused this devastation," McVeigh's mother, Mildred Frazer, read from a brief statement. "He was a loving son and a happy child as he grew up. He was a child any mother could be proud of."

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UK, China again lock horns on Hong Kong

HONG KONG (Reuters) — With just 19 days left before Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule, Beijing and London locked horns yesterday over China's troop deployment plans and Britain's decision to boycott part of the ceremony. Britain flatly rejected Beijing's request to admit more Chinese troops to the colony before the formal transfer ceremony at midnight on June 30 so the People's Liberation Army (PLA) could be in position for the historic moment. "There is no question of Britain agreeing to the deployment of the

main PLA garrison in Hong Kong before July 1," said British Foreign Office spokesman Bill Dickson. "Britain is the sovereign power and is responsible for the defense of Hong Kong up to the last stroke of midnight on June 30 and that is when China assumes its sovereign responsibility." The clash deepened a handover rift over British Prime Minister Tony Blair's decision to boycott the latter half of the grand handover ceremony when Beijing will inaugurate an unelected, post-handover legislature to replace the territory's current elected body.

The plan to install the chamber promptly after the flag change, in the presence of international dignitaries who came for the handover celebration, put Blair and VIPs from other countries that contest the legitimacy of the provisional legislature in a diplomatic bind. Australia, however, dashed British hopes of a unified Western stand by putting national interest first and declining to join the United States and Britain in shunning the post-midnight investiture ceremony. Frequent Sino-British disputes have marred Hong Kong's 13-year transition to Chinese rule under

the terms of a 1984 treaty, but relations plummeted to an all-time low over mild democratic reforms instigated by the British governor Chris Patten. China, infuriated by the last minute changes, vowed to wipe them out by dissolving the reformed Legislative Council returned in 1995 by one million voters. In its place goes the Provisional Legislature, a 60-member chamber chosen by a hand-picked panel of 400 pro-Beijing worthies in Hong Kong and denounced by the territory's democratic lobby as a travesty of democracy.

Cohen: 'Smaller is better' for NATO

BRUSSELS (AP) — With NATO split over how many new members to add, US Defense Secretary William Cohen is making the Clinton administration's case to the allies for limiting it initially to three. "Smaller is better," Cohen said in an interview en route here from Washington. Yesterday, he attended a series of meetings at NATO headquarters, his first as defense secretary. While the debate over expanding the alliance was on the agenda, Cohen and his fellow defense chiefs began by talking about relations with Russia and regional European security. The NATO defense ministers discussed prospects for Russian ratification of the START II nuclear arms treaty. Walter Slocombe, the US undersecretary of defense for policy, told reporters during a break in the talks that Cohen had explained why the US believes Russian has control of its nuclear forces "despite some real concerns for the future."

Coup alarm rises in Turkey

ANKARA (AP) — A sharp warning by the military aimed at the Islamic government intensified predictions of a coup, but some analysts yesterday said the possibility was still far off. Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller sought to play down the military's warning. "Everything is under control," Mrs. Ciller told journalists after meeting with Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan for four hours. "The solution is democracy... to go to elections," she said. In a rare briefing for journalists, the military on Wednesday declared that a violent Islamic uprising was near and that it was prepared to use force to stop it. "The Turkish armed forces is in a position to define a mission for itself under these circumstances... and consider the worst case scenario," said Gen. Fevzi Turkeri, the chief of counter-intelligence at the General Staff. "The basic principles of the Turkish republic cannot

be changed, will not be changed," said Turkeri, insisting that Turkish law obliges the armed forces to protect the nation. The military considers itself the guardian of Turkish secularism, and has been opposing efforts by Erbakan to increase Islam's presence in Turkey. "The soldiers are openly saying 'We are coming,'" Sinan Yerlikaya, an official of the opposition Republican People's Party of social democrats, told reporters yesterday. The military has staged coups three times since 1960 but some think the military will give other scenarios a chance. "The military's patience has not run out yet completely," said Sedat Ergin, a well-informed columnist for the daily *Hurriyet*. The government could now collapse and President Suleyman Demirel would designate opposition leader Mesut Yilmaz to form a new one.

Unfiltered coffee linked to cholesterol

AMSTERDAM — Coffee drinkers beware. There may be grounds for concern brewing in the bottom of your cup of java. Unfiltered brews such as French press, espresso and Turkish coffee have higher amounts of a substance known as cafestol, and people who regularly drank unfiltered coffee

experienced an increase in their cholesterol levels, a Dutch study has found. Coffee that passes through a paper filter to remove the cafestol may be easier on the heart and blood vessels, researchers said. Plus this bit of heresy - instant is better, healthwise if not tastewise.

because the cafestol is squeezed out of the crystals at the factory. "Some people have high cholesterol and drink certain types of coffee that aren't good for them," said Dr. Robert Urgert of Wageningen Agricultural University. "Fortunately, most people drink filtered coffee." (Agencies)

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הכזמן הנכון

Ingathering of the workers

The government may be cracking down on illegal foreign workers with mass arrests and deportations. Larry Derfner meets foreigners in hiding.



Illegal foreign workers await deportation at a tent camp at Ramle's Ayalon Prison.

(Dan Ossendyver/Israel Sun)

Donna (not her real name), a Ghanaian who works illegally cleaning houses around the Dan Region, was walking near Tel Aviv's Shalom Tower on the Wednesday morning before last when she saw a group of black men being arrested.

"I saw my husband," she said. "They were putting handcuffs on him. The Africans were struggling, and the men arresting them were shouting and pushing them into a car."

Donna brought her one-year-old daughter, who was crying, up to the arresting officers - inspectors for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

"I pleaded with them not to take my husband because I cannot take care of my baby alone," she said.

But her husband, also a Ghanaian housecleaner, and the others were driven off to a tent camp set up at Ramle's Ayalon Prison, for illegal workers bound for deportation.

Her husband tells Donna in his phone calls that he lives on "bread and tomatoes" at the camp. She is taking up a collection among her friends to raise the \$1,000 or so it will take to buy him a plane ticket back to Ghana.

Many illegals at Ayalon have been there for months without trial, waiting to raise the plane fare home, said Yaffi Vaisbuch, who has defended a number of foreign workers, mainly Romanians, as a court-appointed attorney.

"They are being held in administrative detention, and I'm sorry to say that it is legal," she added.

Israel is prepared to pay for the laborers' plane tickets home, Vaisbuch explained, but this takes many months of bureaucratic arrangements; so the workers are left either to come up with the money themselves or to languish in a tent prison.

Government officials have warned that deportations of illegal foreign workers were about to be stepped up to 500 a month, and the campaign appears to have begun. African workers say the pressure cooled off this past week, but the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs told Ha'aretz last Friday that 273 foreign illegals had been arrested and served with deportation orders in the previous two weeks.

They were picked up on their way to catch buses to work in the mornings, mainly around the old Tel Aviv Central Bus Station, where Donna and many tens of thousands of other foreign workers, legal and illegal, live. The arrests were carried out by plainclothes ministry inspectors in unmarked cars, accompanied by police.

Only African workers were interviewed for this story, but Romanians, Turks, South Americans and other nationals were also caught in the sweep.

AFRICAN prisoners have told community members that brutal methods, including the use of Mace and hand-held electric stun devices, were sometimes used in the arrests, and that food is scarce and conditions are extremely harsh at the Ayalon tent camp.

As much as possible, they are staying inside their apartments, even if it means missing work, for fear of being picked up. They say their countries' embassies have not been able to do anything to protect them.

Asked to discuss the arrest campaign, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs spokesman's office said: "We do not wish to be interviewed on this matter at this time."

But during a tour of south Tel Aviv last summer, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai was quoted as saying: "There is a disturbing phenomenon in the poor neighborhoods of Tel Aviv. You go into some of them, and you think you're in Africa instead of the State of Israel."

can make arrangements for their families.

They tell of an African arrested a little over a week ago whose wife is eight months pregnant. Two days after her husband's arrest, the woman started to bleed and had to call an ambulance. "I don't know how the baby is," said David.

"Another story is told of an arrested African worker who, with the help of a babysitter, had been caring for his infant daughter after his wife left him. When the inspectors arrested him, he told them there was nobody to look after the girl. "So a social worker came and took the child to a hospital and put her up for adoption. I have no idea where the mother is," said Sheridan Adj, an Israeli citizen from Ghana who used to publish a magazine on the African community here.

Others tell the story of an African worker who was sprayed with Mace when he tried to escape from the car taking him to the tent camp. And inspectors sometimes use electric stun devices to subdue workers who resist arrest, said Adj.

"These men aren't wearing uniforms, and one pushes you, another holds you, and you think you're being robbed. Of course the people

are going to wrestle, to resist," he explained.

The situation has been exploited by street criminals who, impersonating plainclothes Israeli officials, have accosted African laborers, demanded to see their passports, then informed them that they were "holding onto" their wallets - money included, Adj said.

The Africans are often too intimidated to resist, and of course are unwilling to go to the police, he said.

These days, African illegal laborers stay on the telephone, trading information, feeding one another's fear.

The grapevine now has it that the arrests are being carried out in "revenge" for the Israelis who were stranded in Sierra Leone during the recent coup, Adj said.

Early this week, David said he was lucky to have a lot of milk and bread in his refrigerator so he wouldn't have to go out of his apartment. "Nobody's going out if they can help it. It's like a graveyard out there," he said.

Donna, however, still goes out to work cleaning Israelis' homes. "I have to feed my baby," she said. "I just go out to get the bus, and whatever happens is in God's hands."

Here to stay?

By DAN IZENBERG

There are no signs that any of the groups of foreign workers in Israel today have become permanent ethnic communities, says Hebrew University sociologist Eric Cohen.

However, Cohen warned that the situation could change in time, just as it had in other countries like Germany, where foreign workers eventually established a permanent community.

Another researcher, economist Ephraim Kleiman, warned that the virtually unlimited potential supply of foreign labor could create a "critical mass" of foreign workers in Israel. At that point, the foreign population would be big enough to create self-help and cultural institutions which would, in turn, become a magnet for additional members of the community who would come for more than purely economic reasons.

Cohen and Kleiman spoke this week at a public seminar on foreign workers organized by the Harvey L. Silbert Center for Israel Studies at the Hebrew University.

Researcher Ze'ev Rozenak said that despite reports of as many as 250,000 legal and illegal foreign workers in Israel, the only reliable figure is the one published by the Central Bureau of Statistics - 130,000 legal and illegal workers.

According to Cohen, the four main ethnic groups

among the foreign workers in Israel are the Thais, the Romanians, the Filipinos and the West Africans.

Cohen, who has conducted extensive research on the foreign workers, draws the following conclusions about the different groups:

The Thais: There are about 18,500 Thai workers, most of them in the agricultural sector. They come to Israel legally, under the patronage of the moshav movement. Almost all of them are men aged 20 to 30. There are a few families among them but almost no children, because of an unwritten understanding that the women will not become pregnant. The agricultural workers live on the moshavim and are assigned to individual farmers. They have no work mobility and have little freedom of movement in their leisure time. The Thais are not organized and have no social institutions. They invariably return home at the end of their two-year contract.

The Romanians: There are an estimated 60,000 Romanian workers in Israel. Almost all of them have come to Israel legally, through the auspices of the Contractors' Association. Almost all are male. The few Romanian women have entered the country illegally.

There are almost no families and no children in the community. Most of the men are in their 20s and 30s, but some are as old as 50.

See FOREIGN, Page 10

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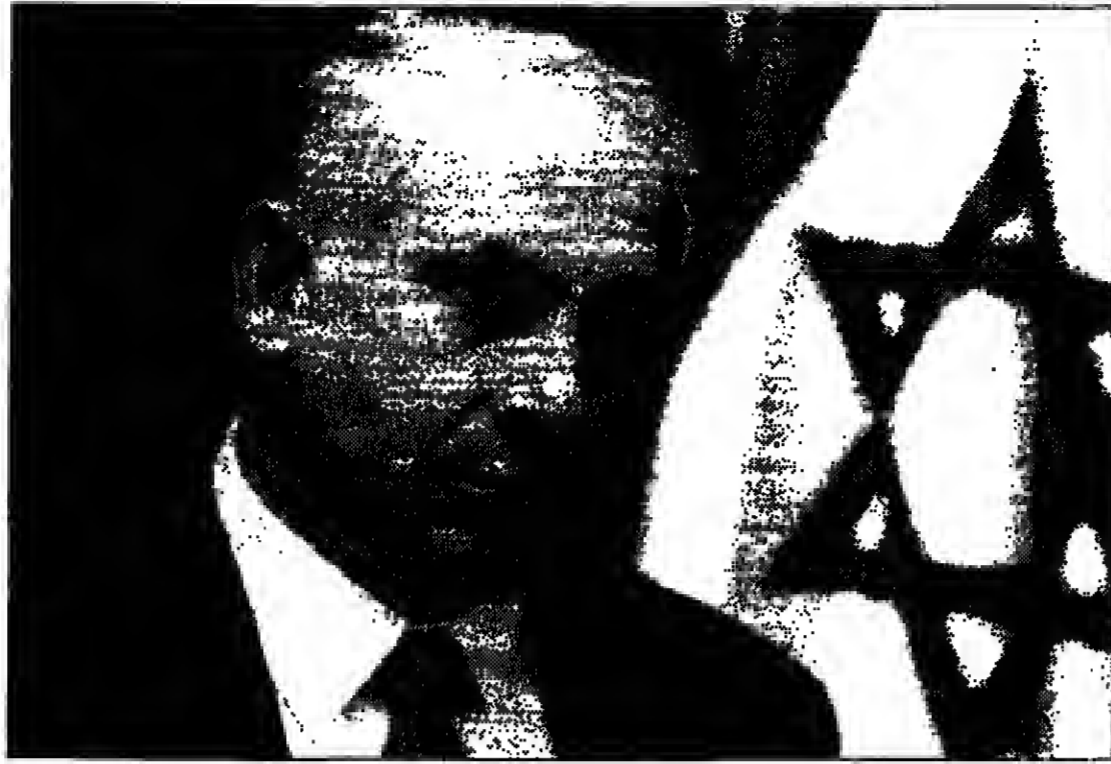
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Hebron to Har Homa:



Terror: Suicide bombing at Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe. (Bryan McBarney)



The view from afar

Jay Bushinsky looks at how Netanyahu has fared on the diplomatic front

Binyamin Netanyahu had a tough act to follow when he took over as prime minister one year ago.

The Clinton administration had been infatuated by the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Washington was unequivocally enthusiastic about Labor's willingness to trade land for peace and achieve a pragmatic accommodation with the Palestinians.

The intimacy and camaraderie with which the Clinton administration worked with Labor government officials, particularly Peres and his then-deputy, Yossi Beilin, were unparalleled in modern Middle Eastern history. But what troubled the Americans most after Netanyahu's victory was the new government's unfamiliarity with the technical aspects of the peace process.

"The new negotiators were totally unaware of the progress that had been made, the texts that had been approved and the understandings reached before they came upon the diplomatic scene," one highly placed source said. "The Palestinians were surprised at the degree of their unpreparedness and resented the need to virtually start again from scratch."

But the Americans made the adjustment — to the extent that when Netanyahu came out with his "Allon-Plus" plan earlier this month, the State Department's initial reaction was cautious, but not negative. US officials recalled having rejected the original Allon Plan as an unworkable proposition, but are not saying the same of its embryonic offspring.

"After all, the situation on the ground has changed and we have to take that into account, as does 'Allon-Plus,'" a diplomatic source said. Nevertheless, even such a cautious approach by administration officials comes after a year of diplomatic hard knocks. Both American and British analysts of the Netanyahu government's performance during its first year agree on one thing: the government accrued diplomatic credit for the Hebron redeployment

and the release of Palestinian women prisoners. But this was squandered in unfavorable decisions — like the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit and the start of construction at Har Homa.

There were other diplomatic flash points that many felt were simply unnecessary, like the dispute with Jordan over water transfer, resolved only at a summit meeting between Netanyahu and King Hussein last month.

More subtly, however, is the problem of *savoir-faire*, or grace, as interpreted by foreign friends, be they Western or Middle Eastern. There is unpublicized pique in and around the White House over what Washington insiders deem Netanyahu's tendency to be a bit too casual with the chief executive.

True, the president has a commitment to Israel that borders on the mystical, these observers say. He is emotionally involved in Israel's welfare, security and development. But that does not mean that an occasional Israeli guest, regardless of rank, can blithely call him "Bill." The sources note that even Hillary Clinton refers to him as "Mr. President" to public.

A Palestinian intellectual contends that Netanyahu's main shortcoming is that he lacks "majama" — a hard-to-define Arab quality rendered in Hans Wehr's *Dictionary of Written Arabic* as "civility, amiability and flattery." He regrets the fact that few, if any, of the prime minister's top aides are conversant in Arab social norms and modes of personal behavior.

One year after his installation as Israel's prime minister, the Arabic-language media by and large have been depicting him as an enemy of the Arab nation. One seasoned Arab commentator, however, views this as having nothing to do with Netanyahu himself; he attributes this to the prevailing Arab notion that Labor was the Arabs' only partner in the regional arena. He contends that the anti-Netanyahu hostility began well before the 1996 election.

And like the victorious Likudniks, who were unshooked in the ongoing diplomatic process, the PA's minions, too, had "failed to prepare themselves for the Likud option," the commentator says.

He believes that it took them 12 months "to learn how to live with Netanyahu," an interesting observation given that the Palestinians and Israel, spurred by the Egyptians, are now trying to find a basis for resuming talks after several months of stalemate.

But Walid Awad, who serves as a consultant to the PA, doubts the Egyptians will succeed. His assessment of Netanyahu and his cabinet reflects some of the notions that have become fashionable throughout the Arab world.

"It is not a secret that a majority of Palestinians — officials and otherwise — believe that it is

almost impossible to achieve peace with the Netanyahu government for two reasons:

"One: the basis upon which the current governing coalition is built, which makes it impossible for Netanyahu should he wish to move the process forward by bailing the building of settlements on Palestinian land....

"Two: the nature of Netanyahu as an individual, his background, his personal qualities... the fact is that he is strange to the area and its culture."

LIKE THE AMERICANS, the European Union's approach to the Netanyahu government is predicated more on national and economic interests than on political principles.

At the bilateral level, for example, Israeli-British trade is steadily increasing and is likely to keep growing under Britain's newly elected Labor government. But this does not tempt the Foreign Office into reconsidering its assessment of the Jerusalem issue, still regarding all areas of eastern Jerusalem as occupied territory.

Some European diplomatic sources believe Netanyahu's two biggest mistakes during his first year were the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit and the start of the Har Homa construction. The tunnel incident was compounded, they say, by the failure to consult with the Jordanians, who are adamant about their special status with regard to the Temple Mount.

These sources view Netanyahu's use of Egypt as a go-between with the PA as "an astute move" that transformed the Egyptians' anti-Israel image to that of mediator and peace-maker.

Germany is much more outspokenly supportive than Britain, and much less critical of Netanyahu's performance as prime minister.

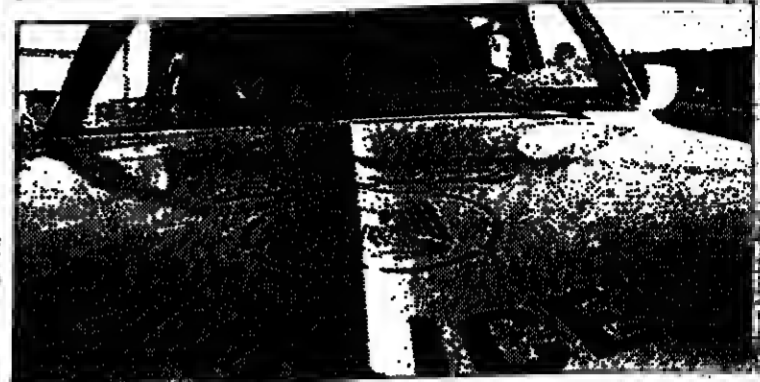
In a speech delivered in Jerusalem in March, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said: "Germany is today — after the US — Israel's most important foreign partner. Of this we are proud. This relationship with the Jewish people, the friendship with the US and the special relations with France — have become axiomatic for us."

Netanyahu's visit to Bonn was a festive occasion, without the criticism and skepticism that have been his lot at home, and his German hosts regretted that the violence following the opening of the tunnel exit forced him to cut short the visit.

It is worth noting, however, that Netanyahu is the first Likud prime minister whose visit to Britain, though brief, did not carry the heavy historical residue that faced his predecessors, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir, who had been pursued by the British for their underground activities during the Mandate period. The election of British Prime Minister Tony Blair may make things even easier; Blair is of the same generation as Netanyahu, something that may mitigate their fundamental ideological differences.

In short, while much of the world sees Netanyahu's policies as problematic or contradictory, most diplomatic sources expect him to run the political distance to the year 2000.

He promised to be a prime minister for all the people, to bring a secure peace, and to privatize, privatize, privatize. One year after Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took office, what's the score?



A secure peace?

Netanyahu said he'd get tough on terror. Do Israelis feel safer — and are they? Ariele O' Sullivan reports

Ten weeks after a Hamas terrorist blew himself up in the Apropro cafe in Tel Aviv, killing three women, a satisfied customer gets up, passes the front counter on his way out, gives the thumbs-up, winks and says: "It was a blast!"

"You see?" asks Haim Kodman, the chain-smoking day manager of the chic cafe. "Even though people may joke about it, it's still on their minds and it's having an effect on their sense of personal safety."

Indeed, a year after Binyamin Netanyahu squeezed into power on his platform of "secure peace," do Israelis feel safer — and are they?

A number of decisive events have shaped Israelis' sense of personal safety over the past year. A few weeks after Netanyahu took office, a Hamas terrorist cell killed five Israelis in two drive-by shootings near Beit Shemesh.

The riots that erupted after the opening of the Western Wall tunnel exit in September hit the country in the face like ice water. For the first time, IDF soldiers were attacked by members of the Palestinian Police, causing a severe crisis in confidence from which neither side has fully recovered.

Then there was the unexpected buildup of Syrian commando units on the Golan Heights; for the first time in years, IDF intelligence believed it was possible that Syria would launch a war. This was followed by the redeployment in Hebron and the decision in March to begin construction on Jerusalem's Har Homa.

Days later, the suicide bomber killed three and wounded 47 in the Apropro cafe. A month later, two suicide bombers botched their attempts to hit Israeli buses in the Gaza Strip.

The latest public opinion poll done on national security was released by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, just prior to the March 21 Apropro bombing.

According to the survey, conducted by Prof. Asher Arian, 65 percent of those questioned believed that the PLO could control terror, up from 43% in 1996. The poll found that 70% of the public believed that the Oslo Accords would contribute to Israel's security — something Arian attributes to Netanyahu's declared policy of proceeding to implement the accords.

But most interesting, the survey of 1,216 Jewish Israelis showed that while the public was more optimistic about reaching an agreement with the Palestinians — 62% agreed that the Oslo 2 agreement would enhance Israel's security, as opposed to 49% last year — there was a 10% increase in those who believe there will be a war in the region during the next three years.

Arian defends his seemingly dated survey by saying that bombings traditionally do not set long-term trends.

"What we can learn from the past 10 to 12 years of surveying is that when there is a bombing there is an instant reaction, but that within a few days or weeks patients go back to what they were," Arian says.

AT THE Apropro cafe, there are no visible signs that the blast ever occurred. A couple with a newborn baby nibbles at their lunch. Two women chat over dessert. An elderly man reads and

sips his ice coffee as his companion talks into his cellular phone.

"Look, people won't stop coming here. They won't stop having birthday parties or going out. People carry on. Only now there is a sense of hopelessness. The whole peace process has come to a halt. Even the Americans have given up," says the crew-cut Kodman, 25.

But, he adds, "Not everything was good with the previous government. There were bus bombs in Jerusalem and the streets were full of blood here in Tel Aviv, too. But at least there was movement [in the peace process], at least the government knew what it was doing and we were moving in the direction of a solution."

"Now, we have attacks and the government is just one big mess. It's all chaos," says Kodman. "Now it may be quiet for the short run, but it's only a matter of time until the stalemate catches up and we see more attacks."

Film director Dani "Nokio" Verete says he feels less safe than when Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres were in control. But he adds that his sense of insecurity hasn't stopped him from doing anything he did before.

He accuses Netanyahu of ruining the few gains made with the Arabs through his "muckdog superiority" that we are stronger and have the moral right on our side. This is a recipe for total insecurity.

Verete believes the string of terrorist attacks that preceded the election were the waning efforts of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad, and the attacks were about to end as the peace process advanced.

On the other hand, Yitzhak Shmuel, 49, a Likud supporter, feels very safe under Netanyahu's Gaza Strip. "Before he was elected I was afraid to take buses. I was afraid to even go to Jerusalem's Old City," says Shmuel. "But Netanyahu is bringing us secure peace. I ride the buses and am not afraid to go anywhere anymore."

As Shmuel sees it, Netanyahu's embrace of Oslo is a ploy and the withdrawal from Hebron was forced on him.

"Netanyahu's an actor and he's waiting for them [the Palestinians] to make a mistake and he'll kill the whole agreement. The Arabs love and respect the fist and without it nothing will work," says the father of five, including one son currently serving in Hebron.

"I'm a simple man. With my hand on my heart I hope there is a war with Syria so that we can show the Arabs just how mighty we are," Shmuel says.

EXPERTS believe that while the peace process is far from dead, there are problems.

"It will take a long time on the part of the actors to move away from the paths they have chosen," says Prof. Efraim Inbar, director of Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center. "I think Israelis are rather impatient. In recent years, Israelis have put more emphasis on personal security, which is part of a trend of emphasizing individual values instead of collective values."

He agrees, however, that though Netanyahu was elected because people felt unsafe, "with the peace process seemingly at an impasse, people are worried about a renewal of terrorist activity."

See TERROR, Page 12



The handshake that wasn't supposed to be: Netanyahu with Arafat in October.

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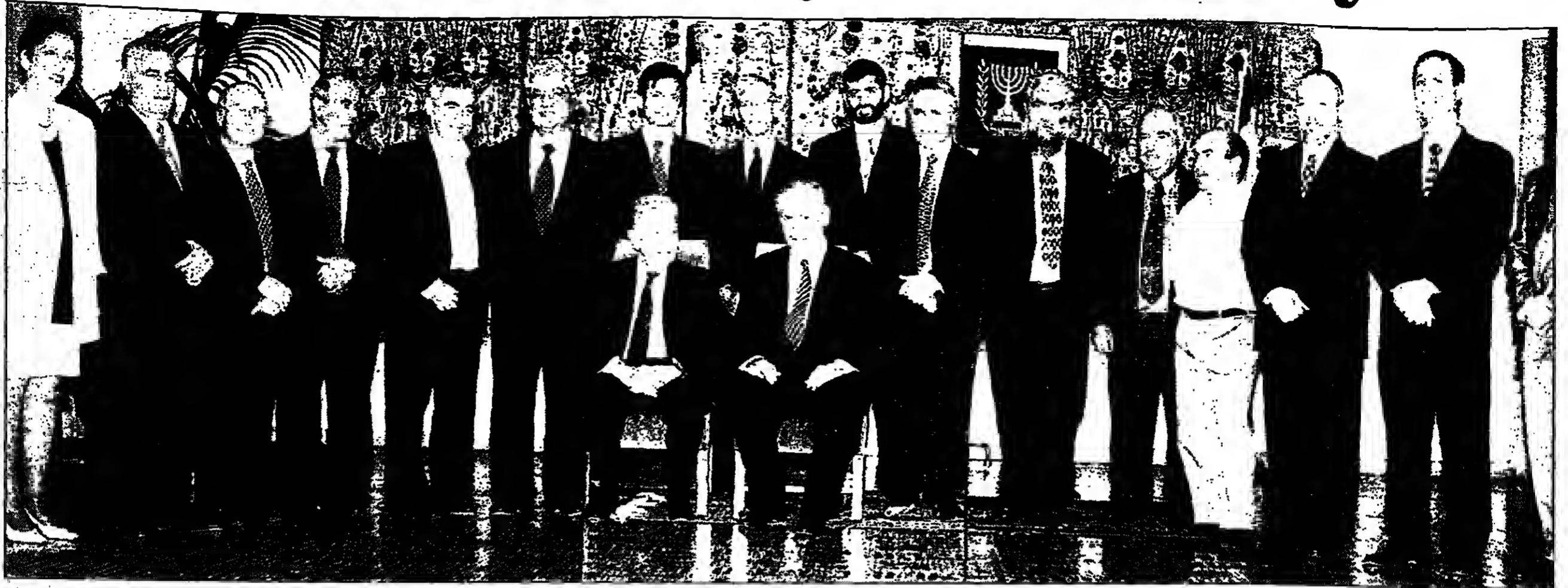
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peace?

get tough lis feel they? reports

Binyamin Netanyahu's first year



(Left): Palestinian Police enter Hebron following the IDF withdrawal in January; (above): Class of '96: The original Netanyahu cabinet at the president's residence last June.

(Isaac Harari)

Who's feeling the pinch?

The parents of some 50 retarded children were told at a meeting with the head of the Jerusalem municipal welfare committee on Sunday that, because of budget cuts, their children would not undergo the final diagnosis needed before they could be placed in any formal educational structure or shelter.

"People were furious," said Barbara Epstein, director of Community Advocacy. "There was yelling and screaming. You have parents who don't know what they are going to do with their children."

These families are among 250 whom, according to press reports, are unable to institutionalize their children because of the lack of government funds. In the best-case scenario, these children will "only" place enormous strain on the family; in the worst, they will endanger themselves and those around them.

The plight of these families highlights problems plaguing the social welfare policy under the Netanyahu government. A tight budget and an economic philosophy of privatization means that the screws are being tightened, with the disadvantaged being among the first to feel the pinch.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu rode to power in the last elections, as Menachem Begin did in 1977, with the help of the development towns and disadvantaged neighborhoods. In the first heady days after the elections, he promised to be the prime minister of the entire nation: secular and religious, Jews and Arabs, urban and development-town residents, the strong and the weak.

The weak, Epstein said, are still waiting. "There has been no improvement under Netanyahu," said Epstein, whose organization has offices in Jerusalem, Acre and Beersheba that

The health, education and welfare landscape under Netanyahu is bleak, but under Labor the situation was not that much better, Herb Keinson reports

help citizens fight for social rights and lobby for improved legislation. "The whole budget process showed that the government's approach to social welfare is to try and cut-back on entitlement payments," she said, using the government's aborted attempt to charge a fee for every doctor's visit as an illustration. Although this plan, which Community Advocacy lobbied heavily against, was not adopted, she said it reveals a reflex of making cuts in areas that will impact heavily on those who can least afford them.

"Ten or 30 shekels a visit may not sound much to many people," she said, "but it hurts the poor." Another example of this reflex, according to Epstein, is the cancellation of the Veteran Citizens Law, which anchored into legislation senior citizen discounts for everything from municipal tax breaks to transportation subsidies and cheap tickets to cultural events. Now that the law has been repealed, she said, the decision to retain these benefits is with the relevant ministries. "But when something like this goes from being law, to being up to the goodwill of the ministry, then it is in a different category altogether and can be done completely away with fairly easily."

Many people, Epstein said, are falling through the cracks in the lurch toward privatization. One realm where this is readily evident is in public housing.

"There is no building of public housing," she said. "Six hundred people in Jerusalem have been approved for public-housing apartments, but there is no housing available. The government's policy is to encourage private building and to give mortgages or rental subsidies. The problem is that the housing subsidies don't come close to equaling the rental payments. Under public housing, people would pay NIS 100 for an apartment. Now they may get NIS 600 a month rental subsidy, but the cheapest apartment in Jerusalem is \$450 (NIS 1,500). It doesn't cover the rent." Furthermore, she said, the NIS 70,000 mortgages available to young couples have not been updated in three years, and are not keeping pace with real-estate prices.

Though the overall picture Epstein paints of the health, education and welfare landscape under Netanyahu is bleak, she said that the situation under Labor was not that much better.

Barbara Swirski, director of the Adva Center, an "action oriented" policy analysis center based in Tel Aviv, echoes Epstein's sentiment. "I don't think there is a major difference [in the two parties] regarding social policy," she said. "The leading economic voices in both parties are advocates of free-market economy."

"It is common knowledge that Netanyahu's economic plan in July 1996 was left there by the

Labor party. He didn't just come into office and then put forward his own economic plan. Both parties advocate the privatization of the economy, and advocate cutting spending because it is bad for the economy." In fact, she said, there is more of a social lobby within the Likud/Gesher ranks than there is within Labor.

As far as expenditure on welfare is concerned, in 1996, the National Insurance Institute payments increased, but that has more to do with demographics and eligibility requirements than with a change of policy, Swirski said. She said the budget of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs increased in 1996 by about 1 percent, and is now some NIS 2.8 billion out of a more than NIS 200 billion budget.

Swirski said that one area where Labor spending outstripped Netanyahu's was in education. In 1996, she said, there was a 5 percent drop in the number of school hours. According to Yaakov Kop, director of the Jerusalem-based Center for Social Policy Studies, between 1992 and 1995 there was a mass infusion of funding into the educational system. This did not, he points out, necessarily translate into smaller classes or longer hours, because much of the money was eaten up by salary increases. The argument could be made, however, that a better-paid teacher is a happier teacher, and that a happier teacher is better for the students.

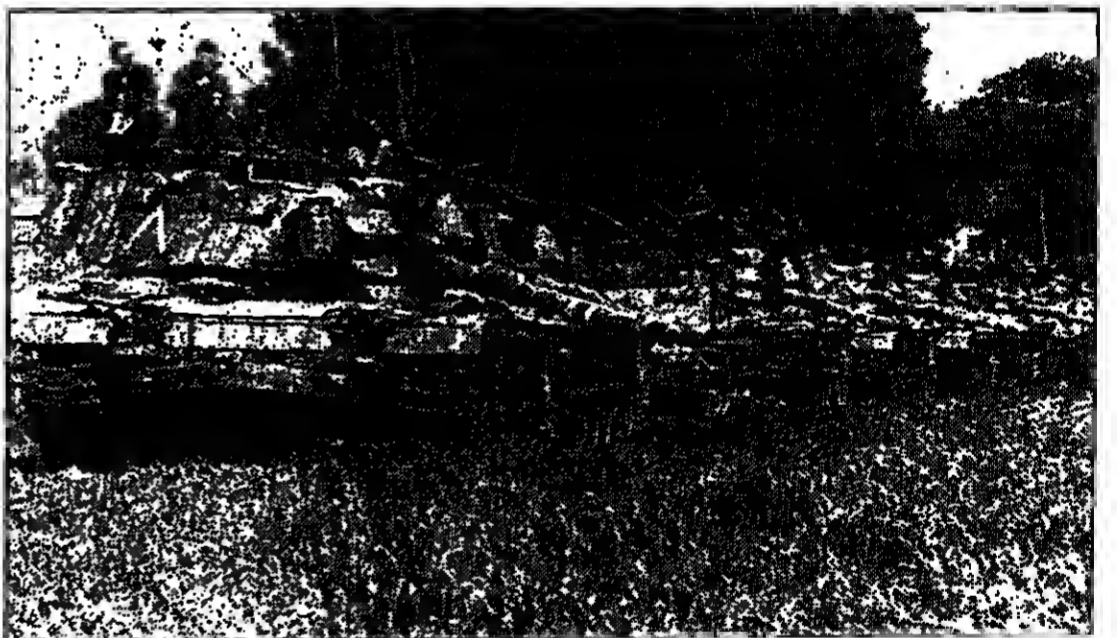
According to Kop, another area where Netanyahu's performance is lagging behind is unemployment. From 1992 to 1996, unemployment - during a period of massive immigrant absorption and increased investment because of the peace process - dropped from 12 to 6 percent, while the figure last year stood at 7 percent, and is rising.

See PINCH, Page 12



Face off with Palestinian demonstrators at Har Homa.

(Brian Hendler)



Bracing for violence: IDF tanks stationed outside of Nablus in April.

(Bryan McBurney)

Economic anticlimax

Unlike the diplomatic fanfare, military tension, and political scandals which have highlighted Binyamin Netanyahu's first year in office, his economic record has so far been anything but dramatic. So much so, in fact, that when contrasted with his pretentious election promises, it seems the ultimate anticlimax of his incumbency.

Netanyahu adeptly handled the one financial crisis which erupted since he took office. But his economic performance has been marred by a perplexing lack of a detailed road map, a basic problem with the populist elements in his coalition, and a relationship of mutual mistrust with his finance minister. For now, all this results in a failure to deliver the kind of Thatcherite reforms which he repeatedly promised prior to and since his election.

The one financial crisis which afflicted Netanyahu was the near-collapse of the bond market last July. To be sure, that mayhem was a merely the final overflow of a merely which had been simmering continuously even since January '95, when provident-fund redemptions exceeded deposits by NIS 600 million.

During the last 17 months of Labor's reign the public had withdrawn an aggregate NIS 8.7 billion from the provident funds, which are heavily invested in state

The government has been reacting to, rather than initiating, economic change, writes Amotz Asa-El

bonds and have traditionally been the Israeli middle class's major long-term investment instrument. Whether due to inflationary expectations, or because of a belief that the Oslo process would harm the economy, the public accelerated its redemption of provident funds, ultimately sending bond prices diving. Faced with that crisis, Netanyahu, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor concocted a typically Israeli improvisation, which had the central bank buy the market's surplus supplies while assigning a hastily assembled committee to seek ways to cure the market's long-term ills.

In the short term that remedy worked; the bond market calmed

down and the public's trust in the provident funds was largely restored. However, those events were alarming for their revelation of an economically unarmed Netanyahu who assumed power pretty much shorn of contingency plans.

In sum, says economist Dan Galai, this government's economic performance has so far been dominated by reactions rather than by initiatives.

Indeed, the recommendations of the Brodet Committee have not been implemented to this day, primarily because of its members' failure to fathom the gap between Netanyahu's personal Milton Friedmanite faith, and his political allies' tax-and-spend commitments.

And so, when it came to Brodet's recommendations on how to reform the financial markets, the blueprint - which would have offered the public a broader and deeper selection of long-term investment instruments - was aborted because a major component in it was a tax on short-term investments: the Pakam plans, which are popular among the working-class Israelis who form the backbone of Gesher and Shas voters.

A similar fate befell Meridor's well-intentioned plans to charge for doctor's visits and raise bus fares.

See ECO, Page 12

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By BEVERLEE BLACK

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FOREIGN

Continued from Page 7

Up to 20 percent of the Romanians, all of whom are brought to Israel to work with a specific building contractor, quit their job at some point and look for work elsewhere. Technically, they are illegal workers from that point on.

Outside of work, the Romanians are completely on their own. They live in poor accommodations and often get together to drink at local bars after work. Although some of the workers stay in Israel somewhat longer than their two-year permit, they all return home eventually, and many of them suffer from loneliness during their stay here.

The Filipinos. There are about 15,000 Filipino workers, most of them female care-givers. They arrive with permits but tend to stay much longer than two years and eventually go home. There is no central local agency responsible for the import of the Filipino workers. Theoretically, they arrive at the request of an individual family, although they frequently move from one employer to another. Most of the workers are women aged 20 to 30. The mothers among them usually leave their children behind. Those that give birth in Israel send their children home at the age of three. The living conditions of the Filipinos are relatively good. They live in their employers' homes and receive a decent salary. But because they are on duty 24 hours a day, many prefer to switch from care-giving to housecleaning.


The Filipinos are the best-organized of all the foreign workers. They have established regional associations and many of them belong to churches.

The West Africans from Ghana and Nigeria: There are 6,000 to 10,000 West Africans, most of them here illegally. About two-thirds of the community is male and there are many families with children.

Some of the children are enrolled in local schools but the families usually send them back home at the age of seven or eight. The African workers participate in the free labor market and, as such, make the best salaries - up to NIS 25 an hour (without social benefits). They are well organized as a community, with social activity revolving around churches, social clubs and a soccer league.


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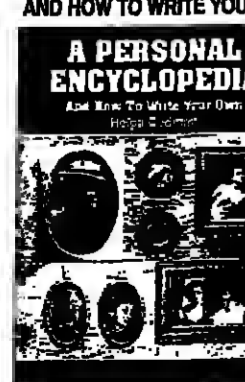
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مكتبة القدس

MIDDLE ISRAEL



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

A post-Messianic hangover

It was a breezy Shabbat morning several days before Yom Kippur in 1966 when our parents - in an uncharacteristic burst of spontaneity - took my three siblings and me for a long walk from our home in Jerusalem's Old Katamon.

Having passed the railway station, a few infantry outposts, several concrete tank barriers, occasional signs warning of land mines, and the ruin which years later would be transfigured into the Cinematheque, we finally started the short climb up Mt. Zion.

Over the previous 19 years that little hill had become a substitute of sorts for Jerusalem's inaccessible Jewish sanctuaries. Up on a balcony, just above where many Christians believe the Last Supper was held, we joined a small group of passers-by who tried to get a view of the Western Wall. A few steps away from there worshippers were reciting Psalms above the candle-laden tomb which some believe is King David's.

Despite the surreal setting of barbed wire, command cars and machine guns, there was little sense of foreboding in the air. Though on the edge of no-man's-land the place was so serene that other than the sound of a stray bell from the nearby Dormition Church and a lone bark from the dog hospital down on the edge of the Snitman's Pool, no sound disturbed the prayers' whippers.

By day's end, having enjoyed our little outing, we decided unanimously to repeat it every year on the Saturday between Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashana.

However, as things turned out, by the next year Mt. Zion's brief role as a Jewish pilgrimage site would become an anachronism. It was hardly two weeks since the end of the '67 war, and on Shavuot morning the Old City was opened to the public for the first time since the fall of the Jewish Quarter in 1948.

So there we were, once again, going past the railway station, the former no-man's-land and the future Cinematheque, only now we were joined by 200,000 jubilant people, most of whom skirted Mt. Zion and flocked instead to the real thing: The Wall.

In all likelihood, anyone who went through the nerve-racking three weeks which had preceded the war, then fought on the battlefield or sat in a shelter under heavy bombardment, and finally marched on that spontaneous parade has a sense of what Messianic salvation must feel like.

It had been a few days since chief chaplain Rabbi Shlomo Goren's dramatic shofar blasts at the newly conquered Temple Mount penetrated every Israeli house, but those howls still seemed to echo there. My father, leaning against the Wall, read with me Psalm 126, including that timeless verse, "when God returned us to Zion we were like dreamers." Like the rest of this country, I was sure I was in the midst of a divine spectacle.

TODAY IT would seem inconceivable, but the founders of the Movement for Greater Israel were mostly secular, and included the cream of Israel's literary elite: Nathan Alterman, Haim Guri and Moshe Shamir, as well as Nobel laureate S.Y. Agnon, veteran kibbutz leader Yitzhak Tabenkin, and popular songwriter Naomi Shemer. A singer

like Arik Lavi, who today could hardly be more distant from those Israelis who cling to biblical tombs, back then vowed from the depth of his lungs into any random microphone, "we'll never abandon you again, Rachel, in the fields of Bethlehem."

And yet, understandable as it was, that post-'67 Messianic psychosis was much the same product of delusion and harbinger of disaster as were the Messianic movements which followed Shabbetai Zevi, whose charismatic appearance excited rabbis all over the world until he became an apostate more than 300 years ago, and Shimon Bar-Kochba, who more than 1,500 years earlier led to Judea's destruction by rebelling against Rome.

Unlike Israeli conventional wisdom, Messianism - that quest for a cataclysmic and comprehensive salvation - can be wholly secular, and Judaism is not necessarily Messianic. Rosa Luxemburg, Leon Trotsky and Che Guevara were secular messianists. Conversely, then NRP leader Moshe Haim Shapira, who prior to the '67 war opposed the conquest of Jerusalem and following the victory supported territorial compromise, was a religious non-Messianic.

Moreover, Messianism has traditionally split into universalists and nationalists. And Zionism, like Rebecca's womb which could hardly contain the twins who constantly fought in it, has from its onset hosted both attitudes, as well as rationalist non-Messianists who merely sought a place in the sun for the Jews.

There were those, like Max Nordau and Vladimir Jabotinsky, who yearned for what the former called "muscle

omed the aftermath of their call two years ago to refuse orders to evacuate West Bank military bases. The fact is that in an army where nearly one in two lieutenants is religious, not one heeded that derelict order." Clearly, the public is far more post-Messianic than most Gush Emmunim rabbis realize.

Passively expecting the Messiah's coming is one thing, but connecting that faith to practical politics must lead to frustrations, because no reality will ever match the rosy promises of a Messianic prophet.

And the frustrations in their turn ultimately make the earth quake: they lay waste an entire Jewish domain, leave one emissar, Bar Kochba, devoured in a gladiator ring, and his mentor, Rabbi Akiva, tortured to death with metal combs; they lead another messiah, Shabbetai Zevi, to a scandalous conversion to Islam, and yet another - Joseph Frank - to embrace Christianity; and they lead one Israeli to attempt blowing up the Temple Mount's mosques, and another to murder an Israeli premier, paradoxically the very one who led that ostensibly miraculous victory in '67.

God may have been on our side, but the '67 war was won because Israel was psychologically cornered and technologically superior. Against that backdrop, numerical inferiority was a surmountable obstacle.

A well-trained, highly motivated, fully industrialized and modernly equipped army is likely to defeat the largely illiterate armies of agrarian societies, which is what we faced here 30 years ago. It may have had a lot to do with faith, but it had nothing to do with the Messiah, which for two millennia has brought this nation nothing but trouble.

Well, it's high time they faith-

Dry Bones



SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

The Nazirite: A Jewish ascetic

"All the days of a nazirite's vow, no razor shall come upon his head; until the days be fulfilled which he consecrated himself to God, he shall be holy, he shall let the hair of his head grow long." (Numb. 6:5)

Priests (or kohanim) are born, not made, for they are descendants of Aaron. Nonetheless, the Torah is sensitive to the possibility that non-priests might wish to pursue a more consecrated, spiritual and even ascetic lifestyle. To this end, this week's portion of Naso introduces the option of the nazirite.

Three elements comprise the nazirite's vow, which could be taken by any Israelite for a minimum of 30 days: the prohibition against drinking wine, the prohibition against coming into contact with the dead, and the prohibition against cutting one's hair.

It turns out that two of these three - refraining from wine and not coming into contact with the dead - correspond closely to the demands placed upon the priesthood.

But here the similarity ends: It is only the nazirite - and not the priest - who may not cut a single hair on his head. And after the conclusion of the nazirite vow, his entire head must be shorn, and the hair is then burned on the altar. In the words of the text, the nazirite "... shall take the hair of the head of his separation (nizro), and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offering." (Numb. 6:18)

What strikes us about this command is that the burning of the hair seems to share the altar with the other sacrifices: the nazirite is required to bring: burnt-offering, sin-offering, peace-offering and meal-offering.

Why dramatize the significance and centrality of the nazirite's hair? After all, once the period of the vow ends, there are no public ceremonies for the lifting of the other restrictions.

Also, we can understand why a "consecrated individual" must stay away from wine: it can play havoc with our desires. We can even understand why we must avoid contact with a corpse - an experience which often leads to melancholia that prevents closeness to God. But what is the symbolism of hair? And why let it grow long in the first place, only to have it eventually burn on the altar?

We can begin to understand the symbolism of the hair when we note Rashi's comment that the reason the laws of the nazirite immediately follow the laws of the suspected adulteress (sota) (Numb. 5:11-31) is the psychological affinity between these two states: after someone sees the suspected adulteress in her shame, he will remove himself from wine - often the source of transgression.

But in addition to the evil which can emanate from wine, transgression can come from uncontrolled hair. The Bible continues to describe the punishment of the sota: "And the priest shall stand the [suspected

unfaithful] woman before God and uncover her hair..." (Numb. 5:18) Rashi here comments that the purpose was to shame her, pointing out that a married woman whose hair is uncovered is disgraced. After all, the Mishna rules that a married woman cannot appear in public with her hair uncovered, covered hair being a time-honored symbol that the woman is married.

Indeed, the Talmudic discussion on the Mishna deduces that a married woman is commanded to cover her hair from the fact that the unfaithful wife's hair had to be uncovered (B.T. Ketubot 72a).

If there exists any doubts as to sexual symbolism of the hair, the following two citations prove this point: The Talmud records that the high priest Simon the Righteous had never eaten from the guilt-offering of a nazirite (because he believed it sinful to assume unnecessary prohibitions).

He made an exception, however, when he met a striking young man, beautiful of eyes, goodly of appearance, his locks arranged in curls. "I said to him: 'My son, why do you wish to destroy such beautiful hair [in becoming a nazirite]?' He said to me: 'I was a shepherd ... When I went to draw water from the well, I saw my own reflection and the evil inclination quickly threatened to overcome me and exile me from the world. I said to him [to this narcissistic impulse]: ... I swear that I will shaven you off for the sake of heaven.'" (B.T. Nazir 4b)

Further evidence of the sexual nature of hair can be found in a fascinating responsum dealing with conversion.

We know that prior to a convert's acceptance to Judaism, three conditions are necessary for males: circumcision, immersion in a ritual bath (mikve), and acceptance of the Torah's commandments.

Circumcision symbolizes the relinquishing of a gentile past; immersion in the mikve symbolizes rebirth; acceptance of the commandments is a commitment to a new ideological framework.

Obviously, for women there are only two necessary steps: ritual immersion and acceptance of commandments.

But then, how do women express their rejection of a formerly "no-holds-barred" gentile lifestyle?

Prof. Mordechai Friedman, in his work *Jewish Polygamy in the Middle Ages*, cites a responsum from approximately 1,000 years ago, discussing the petition of two sisters to convert. They are instructed to remove their hair and immerse themselves after accepting the commandments.

Removal of the hair for women parallels removal of the foreskin for males; both connote sexual promiscuity.

One of the important lessons to be learned from the nazirite is that all the physical aspects of life must be developed - not denied - but must then be dedicated on the altar of God in sanctification and embelement.

A VIEW FROM NOW



By MOSHE KOHAN

'Only churches and ruins'

To understand what the Arafatocrats are doing and why we are letting them get away with it, we have only to read some Arab and Moslem sources and an ancient Jewish source.

Let's start with the first two. The 11th-century Persian Muslim theologian, Abu-Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali, laid down a principle that makes lying for "a good result" - good, I suppose from the Islamic standpoint - a religious precept. Ghazali, called the greatest Moslem after Mohammed and "the Proof of Islam," wrote: "... If a lie is the only way of obtaining a good result, it is permitted. We must lie when truth leads to unpleasant results."

More recently, a distinguished Arab-American, Princeton University professor of Semitic literature, Philip K. Hitti, described a characteristic of "the Arabian genealogist" and "his brother the Arab historian." In a description that perfectly fits the leaders of the Arafatocracy, Hitti wrote: "[Their] fancy had no difficulty in bridging gaps and filling vacancies. In this way [they] succeeded in giving us in

most instances a continuous record from Adam on, in more modest compass, from Ishmael or Abraham."

Incidentally, Hitti, author of *The History of the Arabs*, testifying on behalf of the Arab cause, told the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine in 1946: "There is no 'Palestine' in history, absolutely not."

More recently yet, in the 1950s, a Lebanese sociologist, Dr. Sanya Hamady, wrote: "... The Arab has no scruples about lying if by it he obtains his objective..." (*Character and Temperament of the Arabs*).

This helps us to understand the words of Ziad Abu Zayyad of Jerusalem, member of the Arafatocratic Palestine National Council and co-editor of the *Palestine-Israel Journal*. "Jerusalem," he maintains, "is the symbol of national dignity of the Palestinian people, and the religious attachment of the Islamic people, of which, of course, the Palestinians are a part.... Jerusalem was an issue at the time of the Crusader invasion" (*Jerusalem Post Jerusalem Day Supplement*, June 4).

Indeed, the "Palestinian [Arab] people," invented in recent decades by enemies of Israel, proceeded to invent a "national dignity" symbolized by Jerusalem, the Jews' political

capital and political, spiritual and religious cynosure for 3,000 years.

Earlier testimony by Moslems and Arabs tells a different story: "Early Moslem theologians and jurists opposed assigning any sanctity to Jerusalem."

The 13th-century Arab geographer Yakut reports: "Mecca is holy to Moslems and Jerusalem to the Jews."

An early Moslem traveler tells us that a prayer in Mecca, where Mohammed was born and where the Ka'aba is situated, is worth 100,000 prayers elsewhere; a prayer in Medina, whose denizens treated Mohammed well when he fled from his enemies to Mecca, is worth 50,000 prayers; and a prayer in Jerusalem, where Mohammed never visited except according to some later theological interpretations of the Koran's Sura 17, is worth only 25,000 prayers elsewhere.

The Koran never mentions Jerusalem, nor as much as hints at any Islamic affinity to the city. Compare this with 657 mentions in the Tanach and 154 in the New Testament, plus 122 mentions of Zion in the Tanach and seven in the New Testament.

The 230-meter Arabic inscription around the Dome of the Rock, supposedly built to celebrate Mohammed's alleged ascent to Heaven from that rock, makes no mention of Mohammed's "night journey."

As for Jerusalem's being "an issue at the time of the Crusader invasion": On February 18, 1229, Emperor Frederick II, leader of the sixth Crusade, concluded a 10-year truce with the

Ayyubid Sultan al-Kamil of Egypt, whose realm then included most of Eretz Yisrael. In exchange al-Kamil gave Frederick control of Jerusalem and several other places.

Pope Gregory VI denounced Frederick for acquiring Jerusalem in this manner, saying Moslems were to be fought, not negotiated with.

The Moslem monarch said of the deal: "I have ceded nothing but churches and houses in ruins."

Incidentally, nine years before Hitti denied "Palestine," another distinguished Arab spokesman, Auni Bey Abdul Hadi, denounced the very concept as a Zionist plot. Testifying before the Royal (Peel) Commission, whose aim was to come up with a plan to divide Mandatory Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state, Abdul Hadi asserted: "There is no such country as Palestine. 'Palestine' is a term the Zionists invented.... 'Palestine' is alien to us. It is the Zionists who introduced it."

As for Abu Zayyad's incorporating all Palestinians into the "Islamic nation" - I wonder how that descendant of the first Christians, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, feels about that. I know that my sister, who was born in Jerusalem in 1917 and arrived in the US with my parents in 1922 on "Palestine" passports, is not interested in being annexed to the "Islamic nation."

NOVELIST-ESSAYIST-political activist Amos Oz is a darling of those who have arrogated the designation "peace camp." Hardly a month goes by that he

(Thanks to Yoram Getzler of Aminadov for reminding me of Oz's undertaking and to Drs. Joseph and Aaron Lerner, co-directors of IMRA/Independent Medio Review & Analysis, for their tireless, meticulous documentation and dissemination of the Arafatocratic disdain of Oslo and of civil conduct.)

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TERROR

Continued from Page 8

Prof. Ze'ev Maoz, head of the Jaffee Center, believes Netanyahu's policies are leading us to war with Syria.

"Being safe means being in a position that the likelihood of war in the foreseeable future has decreased," Maoz says.

"The likelihood of war with Syria is in fact substantially growing."

Maoz adds that the relative absence of terrorist attacks on the home front is "primarily due to a Palestinian decision and not to Netanyahu's policies. But they [the Palestinians] are holding violence as an option and they will use it if the stalemate continues."

The Prime Minister's Office refused to allow the national security adviser, Meir Dagan, to be interviewed for this article.

But late last year, the IDF, owing the increasing regional instability, diverted over NIS 1 billion to replenish the stockpiles and supplies it had let run low under the Labor government. It also managed to win a NIS 300 million increase to its NIS 32 billion budget to help it wage a conflict which some say is now inevitable.

Maoz, for example, dismisses the notion that the Syrian army, still no match for the IDF, wouldn't dare risk a confrontation with Israel it would be destined to lose.

"The question of war initiation is not only launched with the probability of winning, but also the political aims of the war," Maoz said.

"The motivation for war in Syria has grown. Syria, despite



(Israel Sun)

its apparent conventional weakness, has been preparing for war since the beginning of the decade.... The lack of progress

in the peace process, the continued impasse on the Israel-Syrian track increases the Syrian willingness to go to war."

ECO

Continued from Page 9

In fact, when Netanyahu gave in to Foreign Minister David Levy's demands on that front it was even more embarrassing, since the premier's concessions to his second in command were made behind the finance minister's back.

Indeed, the weight of Netanyahu's coalition partners increasingly looms as a built-in obstacle on the road to any worthwhile reform. Most recent of these is the ill-fated Kucik Report, a Treasury-sponsored study which revealed gross overpaying among local authorities, including excessive overpayment to senior municipal staff.

Last week, in a clear surrender to Gesber's elaborate interests across the municipal sector, the government all but castrated that report; in an official decision the government declared its intention to impose budgetary discipline on mayors, but in the same breath it admitted it would do so only if municipal budget deficits exceeded 40 percent (!) of their original limits.

Such compromises to the populists around him have left practically all Israeli economists disillusioned about Netanyahu's willingness to actually fight for economic reforms he theoretically espouses. Referring to the premier's failure to support Meridor's attempt to reduce the Electric Corporation's monopoly, Hebrew University Prof. Eitan Sheshinski said it was "a bad signal, a major setback for all those who believe in a market economy."

IN FACT, Netanyahu's campaign rhetoric of en-masse privatization of "100 state companies," besides taking long months to evolve into some kind of a practical, official plan, ultimately emerged as a skimpy document where a mere 13 state assets were placed on the counter.

Moreover, other than the banks - whose sale process began under the previous government, albeit amid much foot dragging - there has been no move to sell the truly sizable companies at stake, including the Electric Corporation, Zim, El Al and Israel Aircraft Industries. The same is true of much-heralded plans to impose competition on Egged and break up Israel Railways into two separate companies, not to mention Netanyahu's long-forgotten talk of tax cuts.

Coupled with the basic suspicion between Meridor and Netanyahu, who insists on perceiving his treasurer as a rival, prospects for sweeping reforms seem remote. One year after Netanyahu's rise to power. If anything, only a dramatic downturn in the macro-economy - i.e. the reduction of the current annual growth rate from 3% to a recessionary 1%, a further rise in unemployment from its current 7.5% toward double-digit territory, or a Mexican-style hot-money crisis in which a sizable part of the currently record-high \$16.4 billion in foreign currency reserves would flee the country - would jump-start a serious reformist effort on the part of this government.

Even so, economists see some points of light, particularly the recent sell-offs of additional stakes in the Discount and Leumi banks, and in Meridor's quiet pursuit of fiscal responsibility. "For that," said financial consultant and former Treasury director-general Yoram Gabai, referring to the last three months' budgetary surpluses, "Meridor deserves our full respect."

David Harris contributed to this report.

GRAPEVINE

Let them clap

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Appearing on *Dan Shilon Live*, Prime Minister Netanyahu received a warmly enthusiastic reception from the studio audience, who applauded him almost every time he spoke. When program host Dan Shilon asked them to abstain so as not to drown out what Netanyahu had to say, the prime minister was more than happy to waive his rights in their favor. "It's not often that this prime minister gets applauded on the media," he said. "Let them clap."

WHILE her rivalry with fellow singer Yardena Arazi was well documented, Ofra Haza has always managed to keep her private life under wraps. Thus, reports of her romantic liaisons were few and far between. What Haza did design to tell reporters over the years was that when Mr. Right came along, he would be an Israeli. And that's exactly what happened, despite the fact that Haza, 38, spends so much time abroad. Seven months ago, she started dating businessman Doron Ashkenazi, whom she will marry some time this summer. It will be the second time around for him and the first for her. The Yemenite ceremony will not be a gala bash for a thousand-plus invitees. Haza, who still values her privacy, will confine the guest list to family and close friends.



Ofra Haza (Yaki Halperin)

catching Laura Ashley wide-brimmed picture hat. Since almost everyone else was bare-headed, just about every guest made a bee-line for Reinach to comment on her headgear.

Others present included Justice Levine, the deputy director of Keren Hayesod's division for English-speaking countries; Libby Bergstein, deputy director of protocol at the Jerusalem Municipality; Miri Alon, public relations director for the Cameri Theater, who had just returned from a New York fund-raiser; Jerusalem City Councilwoman Anat Hoffman, who thought she had been invited to yet another 30th-anniversary-of-united-Jerusalem function, and Aliza Olmert, who was there not as the wife of, but as a member of the

Israel Festival Network, which promotes the Festival. Festival chairwoman Dan Halperin, who has been in the job for nine years, was contemplating whether it was time to move out, but decided to stick it out for at least another year, since next year's festival will be part of the jubilee celebrations of the state.

WHEN Marian Levin-Epstein invited Meridor and Betty Levin for supper prior to their leaving for America for the Hadassah national convention, the veteran *Time* magazine reporter and his wife had no reason to suspect that they were going to have anything more than a quiet meal with an old friend. But then they started bumping into other friends whose parting remark was: "See you at Marian's." Levin-Epstein had organized a surprise party to celebrate the Levin's 50th wedding anniversary.

Most of the guests knew the Levins from their Zionist youth movement days in the US. Marlin Levin recalled that when they left for Palestine, six weeks after their wedding, people asked when they would be coming back. "When the honeymoon is over," was his reply. Considering that they're still here, it must be some honeymoon!

BEING the nephew of the sixth president of Israel and the grandson of a former chief rabbi afforded no special consideration for Yitzhak Herzog when he came to Beit Hanassi for the 21st annual prize-giving ceremony of the Council for a Beautiful Israel of which his aunt, Aura Herzog, is the international president. An over-zealous policeman would not allow the cab in which he had arrived to linger momentarily outside the presidential residence while Herzog paid the bill, and he had to ride almost to the next corner before the policeman was satisfied.

NEW opportunities for people of the third age are also available here. Television talk-show hostess Haya

"I WISH we had such a hall in Toronto," said Jeanne Lamon, musical director and concertmaster of Canada's Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, at the post-concert reception at the Henry Crown theater hosted by Canadian ambassador David Berger and his wife Monica. Lamon, who last visited Jerusalem 25 years ago, was amazed at the changes in the city, but, more than that, she was delighted by the "attentive, alert and alive audience" whose cries of "Bravo! Bravo!" reverberated throughout the auditorium at the end of the performance.

Among the concert-goers were local conductor Anita Kamien, Tel Aviv University Jaffee Center senior research associate Mark Heller, Bar-Ilan University BESA Institute senior fellow Gerald Steinberg, and Zachariah Kay, a member of the Israel Association for Canadian Studies who has just published a new book, *The Diplomacy of Prudence - Canada and Israel 1948-1958*.

IT'S quite a step from Baroque to jazz - but not for everyone. Some of those who attended the Tafelmusik concert lingered in the foyer of the Jerusalem Theater to listen to the Jerusalem Jazz Band, fresh from a highly successful tour



Nicole Kidman (UPPA)



Tom Cruise (UPPA)

in the US. Dan Biran, a director at Israel Television and a popular musician in his own right, sat quietly, taking in the music, as did archeologist and sometime musician Wolf Schleicher. But Mark Shapiro from North America, not exactly a spring chicken, danced nonstop through the two-and-a-half-hour performance, which started around midnight. "You can't listen to jazz and not move," he said.

ALTHOUGH the garden party hosted last Friday by the British Council was in honor of the cast of *Animal Farm*, it was a local personality who stole the show. Jill Marie Reinach, who works with the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Press Department, came wearing a Laura Ashley dress and an eye-

DESPITE the difficulties involved, Tom Cruise and his wife Nicole Kidman seem to have succeeded quite well in the area of planned parenthood. They have two adopted children, Isabella, four, and Connor, two. Now they're trying for a third child in London where Cruise is shooting a new film.

PINCH

Continued from Page 9

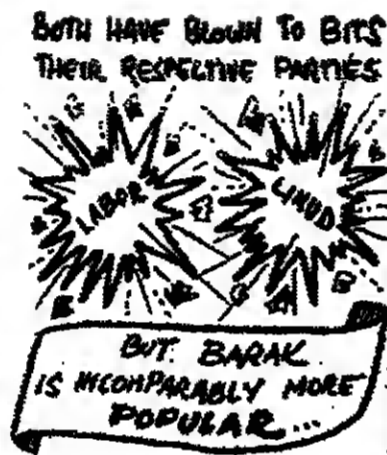
While Kop was careful not to blame any particular government policy for any of the economic indicators, he did say that a political decision is responsible for one phenomenon that could have tremendous impact on the country's social-welfare policy in years to come: the upsurge of students in haredi schools and yeshivot.

According to Kop, the number of students in haredi schools has swelled from 2-3 percent to 10 percent over the last 15 years, with the bulk of this being newly religious adherents affiliated with Shas institutions, and much of it happening in the last two years.

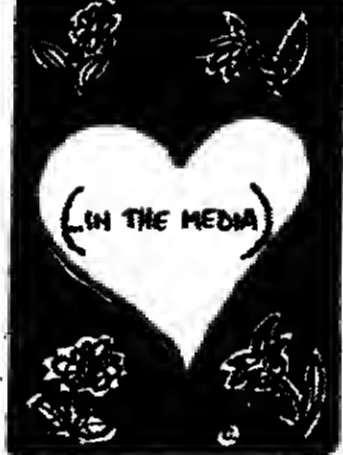
"This is a pure political process, not a demographic one," said Kop. He said it is the result - because of political power - of an increase in funds going to these institutions. Kop said that as the strength of Shas grows and the number of its adherents swells, more and more people will be competing for less and less entitlement money in the very near future. The reason, he said, is because the number of people opting to study Torah full-time, rather than work or study for a degree that will prepare them to work, is growing enormously. Often, he said, the decision to opt out of the workforce is being taken by people who are the least economically able to do so.

It is this trend, more than any other legislation or plan of action, that may very well go down as the most significant social-welfare legacy of Netanyahu's first year.

BRULIK



by DOSH



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Bag duck, say, and face criticism (3,3,4)
- 6 Threesome not lacking in patriotism (4)
- 9 This writer should get his subject dead right (10)
- 10 Working with the church in the past (4)
- 12 His employers have him over a barrel (6)
- 13 Curious to reveal what gives Americans a lift (8)
- 15 Under way, with no visible means of support? (3,3,6)
- 18 Evens - can colt fail for better? (12)
- 21 Dismissed a Commons member, one gassy and explosive (8)
- 22 Fast road laid in purple stona (6)
- 24 Love girl with rounded shape (4)
- 25 The sphere of the underwater explorer (6-4)
- 26 Two-piece? (4)
- 27 Where one may cough politely, say, being late? (6-4)

DOWN

- 1 Complain, unable to finish Marx (6)
- 2 His work should suit you (6)
- 3 Unstable construction, so UFO crashed, alas (5,2,5)
- 4 Carried, without elaboration (4)
- 5 Recoil from lie in sincere horror (10)
- 7 Sound accurate, as Big Ben does? (4,4)
- 8 Finished journey, using manual control (8)
- 11 Ate too much that was spoiled (12)
- 14 Make efficient course under water (10)
- 16 Builders' platform once fatal to many (8)
- 17 Nice ears - awful to have wax (8)
- 19 Came in to restore place of entertainment (6)
- 20 Made watertight, to be conducted under ocean (6)
- 23 Many in one car (4)

SOLUTIONS



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ACROSS: 1 Paro, 4 Severe, 9 Neglect, 10 Swift, 11 Ende, 12 Amateur, 13 Dry, 14 Cede, 15 Iota, 16 Aye, 20 Ethical, 21 Ripa, 24 Karp, 25 Outcast, 26 Denial, 27 Needy.
DOWN: 1 Penny, 2 Right, 3 Even, 5 Ecstasy, 6 Evident, 7 Entire, 8 Sirey, 13 Describe, 15 Enhance, 17 Myster, 18 Alet, 19 Sentry, 22 Irad, 23 Suez.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- 7 Quarter (6)
- 8 Previous (6)
- 10 Love affair (7)
- 11 Relaxes (5)
- 12 Not any one (4)
- 13 Intolerant believer (5)
- 17 Abundant (5)
- 18 Woodwind instrument (4)
- 22 Detest (5)
- 23 Piece of embroidery (7)
- 24 Result (6)
- 25 Complete failure (6)
- 1 Insult (7)
- 2 Increase (7)
- 3 Sharp wound (6)
- 4 American whisky (7)
- 5 Gather together (5)
- 6 Lively (5)
- 9 Trapeze artist (9)
- 14 Hold closely (7)
- 15 Put an end to (7)
- 16 Car component (7)
- 19 Sprinted (5)
- 20 Cooks (5)
- 21 Circuit (5)

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הכזמן הנחמד

HIGH TECH

in brief

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Emulek receives \$1m. from Doerge

Chicago-based venture capital fund Doerge Capital Management has invested \$1 million in Emulek of Jerusalem. Emulek develops software tools designed to accelerate the process of developing electronic products. Earlier in the month, Emulek announced another \$1m. placement from Simon and Wiesner.

IBM announces Hebrew version of Notes

Lotus, a subsidiary of IBM (Israel), has announced that the next version of Notes 5.0 will be available in Hebrew toward the end of the year or the beginning of 1998. Notes is one of the leading software tools used to manage announcements over the Internet and intranets.

Iplex signs \$1m. deal with NSW

Iplex of Israel recently received a \$1m. order to provide Japan's Nippon Systemware with its interactive, digital video program, Active-V. According to the terms of the deal, NSW will market Iplex's products via an original equipment manufacturer agreement.

Lanoptics to buy back shares

Lanoptics Ltd., a Migdal Ha'emek-based maker of networking solutions, yesterday announced that its stockholders approved a proposal that would allow the company to buy back up to 10% of its shares. Lanoptics recently gained approval from the Tel Aviv District Court, becoming the first Israeli company to repurchase its shares. The company has 6.1 million outstanding shares.

Orbotech receives \$4.5m. order from Merix

Orbotech recently announced it received a \$4.5m. order for its automated optical inspection systems from Merix, a manufacturer of printed circuit boards. Based in Yavne, Orbotech's automated optical inspection systems are designed to maximize accuracy in the manufacture of printed circuit boards. Merix, which is headquartered in Massachusetts, provides printed circuit boards to the communications, computer, industrial, and medical instrumentation markets.

Scitex appoints three new directors

Scitex Corporation Ltd., the embattled maker of communication products, announced the appointment of three new directors: Sasson Somekh, a senior vice president at Applied Materials, Inc.; Roger Gallois, a senior vice president of Groupe Bull; and Rimon Ben-Shaul, president of Clal Industries Ltd. The changes follow the company's decision to streamline its board of directors.

May trade deficit \$685m.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The trade deficit (excluding trade with the Palestinian Authority) totalled \$685 million through the end of May, according to data published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Imports stood at \$2.38 billion and exports \$1.69 billion. In recent months imports have continued declining at some 0.25 percent to 0.53% a month (excluding diamonds and petroleum), which represents a 3% yearly rate. This decline is somewhat smaller than that recorded in the second half last year (a monthly 1.3%).

Exports, meanwhile, remain steady in volume, a trend that has

continued throughout the first five months of the year. Exports increased a monthly 0.6% in the second half of 1996 (excluding diamonds).

As a result of these two trends, the trade deficit has shrunk at a monthly 0.8% this year, compared to an monthly average 5% decline in the second half of 1996.

Imports in May comprised petroleum and diamonds (27%), other raw materials (45%), machinery and vehicles for investments (15%), and consumer goods (13%).

Of exports, 68% were industrial products and software, 4% agricultural goods and the remainder diamonds.

Price controls lifted on dairy staples

Eitan: Israel aiming to become a key exporter to the Far East

By DAVID HARRIS

Price restrictions on a variety of dairy products are lifted from today as the government attempts to open the industry to increased competition. Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan announced yesterday.

This is likely to lead to cheaper prices for consumers and, as production costs should fall, Eitan said he is examining ways of making Israel a major exporter of dairy goods, particularly to the Far East.

The lifting of price controls is aimed at breaking up the existing industry monopolies and cartels. Treasury figures suggest Truva holds 70 percent of the overall market, Strauss and Tene Noga a further 20%, with the smaller players competing for the remaining 10%.

Initially the lifting of restrictions will be

in place for seven months.

Meridor appealed to consumers to look very carefully at product prices over the coming seven months, saying they can help in the attempt to bring prices down and introduce full competition.

"In the U.S. if tomatoes are too expensive and consumers don't buy them for two weeks, the prices come down," said Eitan. "Until now, we haven't had that sort of mentality here."

The government has set aside several hundred thousand shekels for an advertising campaign encouraging people to check prices.

The restrictions are not being lifted on basic products such as milk in plastic bags, cottage cheese, 5% fat, leben, and zshel. "There is still a justification for restrictions where there is no competition," said Meridor.

It is still uncertain how the lifting of restrictions will affect the market, which is why the ministers called for consumers to help in their campaign. The Central Bureau of Statistics has been enlisted to keep a month-by-month check on prices.

The new regulations were immediately welcomed by Israel Dairy Board director-general Avshalom Dolev.

"We expect a very positive trend as a result," he said.

He said he does not expect dramatic changes in the short-term as a result, but rather benefits in the long-term as the market opens to competition, making companies more efficient.

"I believe the dairy market will have a new image, similar to that of western Europe and the U.S.," he said.

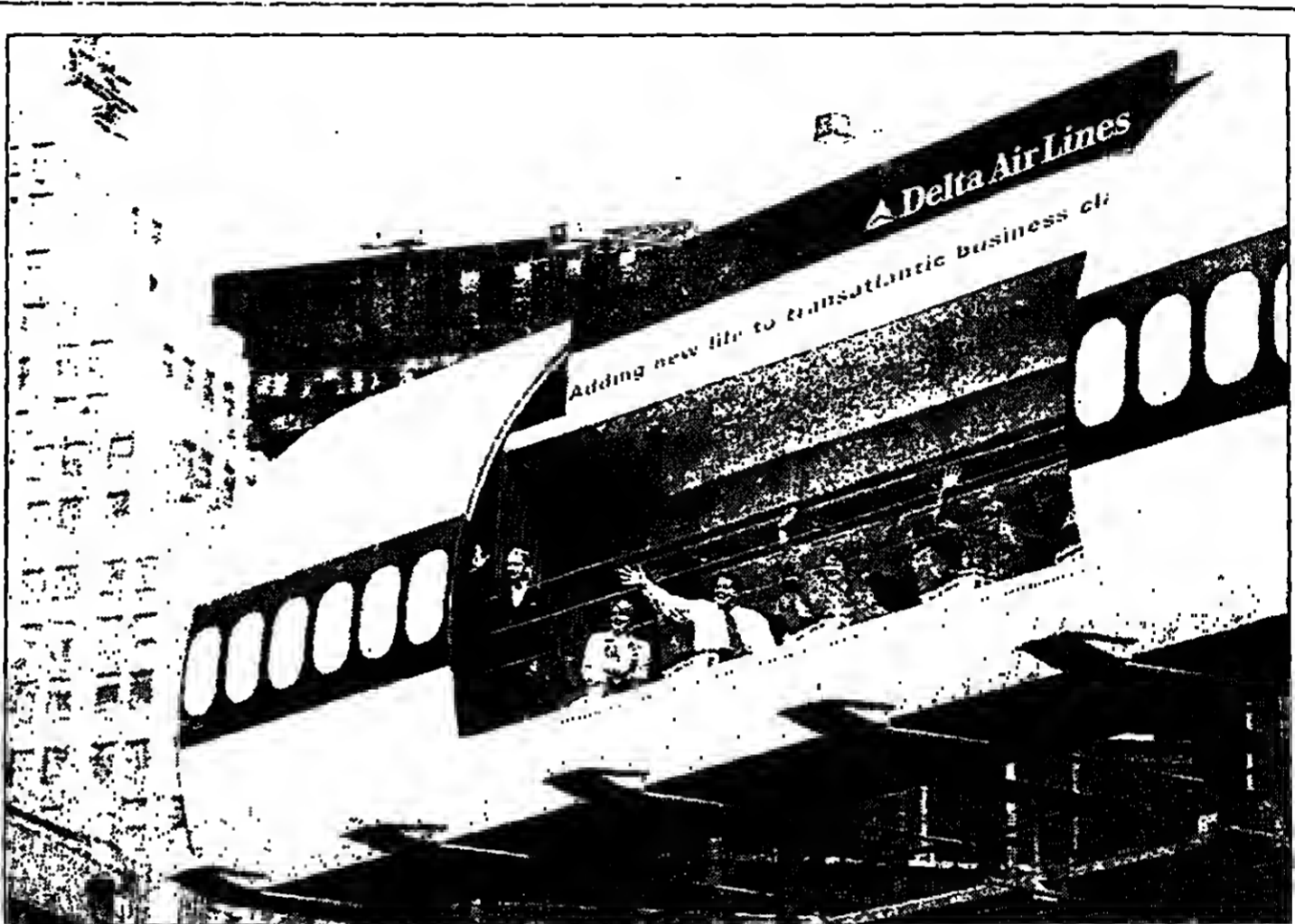
If production prices drop, as the government expects, Eitan would then want Israel

to become a major exporter. Currently, almost 100% of dairy products are sold on the home market. Having just participated in a food exhibition in Bangkok, the Agriculture Ministry believes there is an excellent opportunity to begin exporting to the Far East.

"It's impossible to say what percentage of total production could be exported," said Eitan. "I hope that we can innovate and push, so that our products will appear on Far East markets."

With the opening of the Israeli dairy sector to imports, demand for domestically produced goods is diminishing and consequently farmers must begin looking at overseas markets, said Dolev.

Meridor and Eitan will reassess the regulations in seven months, when they will decide whether to continue the policy or revert to full price restriction.



Advertising with a personal touch

Guests and crew wave from a 'living billboard,' a replica of a Delta jetliner near Times Square in New York. People appear in the cabin during morning and evening rush hours. (Reuters)

Japanese delegation to arrive Monday

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

A delegation of senior executives from six Japanese computer companies is expected to arrive Monday for a five-day tour of Israel's computer industry, said a spokesperson from Jerusalem Global Ltd., which is hosting the visit.

Representatives from NEC, Toshiba, Fujitsu, Hitachi, Matsushita, and Oki will visit a number of undisclosed Israeli companies, research institutes, and technological incubators and meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky.

This is the most senior delegation of Japanese computer industry representative to ever visit Israel, said Shlomo Kalish, Jerusalem Global's CEO. Of the six visiting companies, only NEC has a previous investment in Israel.

Israelis are hoping this visit might rekindle Japan's interest in Israeli high-tech companies. Recently, a slowdown in the peace process and increased concerns regarding the Arab boycott have tempered Japan's local activities.

"This could signal a milestone in renewed relations between Japan and Israel," said Amikam Levanon, manager of Jerusalem Global's Japan-related activities.

Bilateral trade between the two countries totalled \$2.2 billion in 1996. Most of Israel's exports to Japan are in diamonds.

Tatsuo Tanaka, the executive director of the Japanese Electronics Industry Development Association, will lead the delegation.

Bank of Israel to propose basic central bank law

By DAVID HARRIS

The Bank of Israel will within days pass recommendations for the introduction of a basic central bank law and creation of a board of monetary experts to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, according to central bank spokesman Gabriel Fizman.

Facing increasing calls for internal reform, bank governor Jacob Frenkel is now supporting plans for a board of experts to aid him in achieving the govern-

ment-set monetary targets. The document to be handed to the government will call for the creation of a basic law for the bank to replace the existing Bank of Israel Law passed in 1954.

While these recommendations are being finalized, Knesset Finance committee members, led by Avraham Shohat (Labor), are preparing their own bill for introduction to the Knesset. This bill will propose the creation of a board of six governors, three of whom will be bank appointees, with the remainder holding independent status.

Frenkel has so far not indicated his preferred make-up of the monetary board, that information will be contained in the report he submits to Netanyahu and Meridor. However, he recently said the creation of a board will, if anything, increase the independence of the bank, rather than diminish it, as MKs such as Shohat appear to favor.

As the central bank sees it, any reform of such a fundamental nature must come with the full approval of the government and not at the initiation of opposition politicians.

The document will have several key principles at its heart: the guarantee of full independence for the central bank; the guarantee of transparency and accountability to the government, Knesset, and public; the establishment of a decision-making framework within the bank.

The overall aim, according to Frenkel, is for the Bank of Israel to follow Western European models, where independence of the bank is guaranteed in law.

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Pound sterling	5.5121	5.6011	5.41	5.58	5.5881
French franc	0.5757	0.5881	0.56	0.60	0.5852
Japanese yen (100)	2.2658	3.0338	2.90	3.05	2.9874
Dutch florin	1.7412	1.7693	1.71	1.80	1.7587
Swiss franc	2.3379	2.3757	2.29	2.41	2.3820
Swedish krona	0.4341	0.4412	0.42	0.45	0.4384
Norwegian krone	0.4700	0.4776	0.46	0.49	0.4743
Danish krone	0.5144	0.5227	0.50	0.53	0.5282
Finnish mark	0.6526	0.6632	0.64	0.68	0.6681
Canadian dollar	2.4323	2.4726	2.39	2.51	2.4572
Australian dollar	2.5402	2.5812	2.48	2.62	2.5632
S. African rand	0.7502	0.7824	0.68	0.77	0.7577
Belgian franc (10)	0.9490	0.9844	0.93	0.98	0.9682
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7828	2.8298	2.73	2.87	2.8108
Italian lire (1000)	1.9879	2.0200	1.95	2.05	2.0071
Jordanian dinar	4.7541	4.8410	4.70	5.02	4.8607
Egyptian pound	0.3800	1.3500	0.96	1.05	1.0745
ECU	3.8145	3.8782	-	-	3.8822
Irish punt	5.1097	5.1822	5.02	5.27	5.1472
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3 coalition parties refuse to promise support for conversion bill

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs from three coalition parties have refused to promise their support for the conversion bill until all compromise solutions have been exhausted.

Members of the Third Way, Tsomet and Yisrael Ba'aliya (which is in the middle of its own coalition wrangle with the government) were speaking following the rejection by the National Religious Party of all the compromises suggested so far, despite the support for the possible solutions by the haredi parties.

The Knesset Law Committee, chaired by Shaul Yahalom (NRP), is scheduled to resume preparing the conversion bill next week for passage before June 30, when, in the absence of a Knesset decision, the High Court will rule whether non-Orthodox conversions carried out in Israel will be recognized or whether the current situation, in which only Orthodox conversions performed here and all conversions carried out abroad are recognized, will continue.

"There will be no automatic voting by us," Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman said. "Until all the compromise possibilities have been exhausted, the issue should not be brought to the vote."

Bronfman said his party's vote depends partly on its relationship with the coalition. Last week,

Yisrael Ba'aliya announced it would not be bound by coalition lines in votes because of what Bronfman described as "gross violations" of the coalition agreements with it.



Shaul Yahalom

"Our goal is to find a compromise," Tsomet faction chairman Eliezer Zandberg said. "Otherwise, each person will vote as they see fit."

In this case, Tsomet would probably be divided, as it was in the first reading, he said.

"I am obligated to the unity of the Jewish people no less than to the unity of the coalition," said Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), who has been trying to find a solution to the dilemma. "It does not seem reasonable for the NRP to veto a compromise that both extremes

are willing to accept."

Yahalom has rejected the latest suggestion, raised by coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan, last week. This combines the proposal that all converts receive citizenship under the Citizenship Law, rather than the Law of Return, and that instead of the clause for religion on identity cards, there will be a clause for "desired religion," where converts could be listed as "Jewish" without it representing official recognition of their Jewishness.

Yahalom said the proposal would insult and embarrass converts - which is halachically forbidden - and the change in identity cards could harm the Jewish nature of the state. He is demanding the law be passed, as agreed in the coalition agreement.

Haim Shapiro adds: Representatives of the Conservative and Reform movements are due to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday and appear before the Knesset Law Committee on Tuesday to discuss possible compromises of the bill.

Both movements are to include local people and representatives from abroad in their delegations. Rabbi Einat Ramon, spokeswoman for the Conservative movement, yesterday expressed her disappointment that only rabbis would be appearing before the committee.

Pines bill would compensate victims of religious violence

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) has submitted a bill which would grant compensation to "victims of religious violence" via the property tax, the same way that victims of nationalist attacks can seek compensation.

Pines said the bill is intended "to make the state relate to a Jewish stone the way it does to an Arab one. Lately, we've seen more and more violent incidents on religious grounds, particularly stone-throwing at cars traveling on Shabbat. The damage caused by a stone thrown by a Jew is the same

as that from a stone by an Arab."

Pines condemned the attack on non-Orthodox worshippers near the Western Wall on Shavuot and said haredi leaders are encouraging increased nationalist and anti-secular extremism.

"The educators whose students carry out these pogroms should think twice before criticizing secular education," he said.

In response to the Shavuot confrontation, Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Haim Miller stated the presence of the Conservative Jews at the holy site was a "provocation. What are they looking for over there?"

"Whoever holds collectivity of



Ophir Pines

the Jewish people dear will fight to the end to ensure the Conservatives do not have a place in the state. I am against violence, but those who are pained sometimes lose control."

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi said that if the Conservative group tried to hold a prayer service with men and women together, it was indeed a provocative act, but no one has the right to take the law into his/her own hands.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called upon Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani to ensure there is no more haredi violence in the capital.

EYEWITNESS

By MARIE ROCHESTER

I now know what *sinat hinam*, senseless hatred, is first hand. And, ironically, it was at the Kotel that I experienced it.

After a night of studying, about 100 non-Orthodox Jews gathered at the Kotel for Shavuot prayers and to celebrate the giving of the Torah. We tried to find a place off to the side so as not to antagonize

Learning about 'sinat hinam'

the haredim. But they found us. At the beginning there were a few hecklers, but then their numbers grew. The police came over to try to protect us from them.

About halfway through the reading of the Book of Ruth, the police requested that the women take off their tallitot to try to calm down the haredim. It didn't work.

The police then told us to hurry up. They weren't sure how much

longer they could hold off the haredim. While I was reading from the Torah, they attempted to drown us out. I tried reading louder and they got louder and louder. They were getting more aggressive. The atmosphere was very volatile, and again the police came over; this time they told us we would have to move.

They cleared a path for us, and it was then that I saw what the police were protecting us from. There were thousands of haredim - up and down the stairs and balconies and surrounding us - shouting at us in English and Hebrew. "Nazis." "Goyim."

"Reform Jews go away," and "You're worse than the Nazis." They were spitting and throwing things on us and the Torah. A little girl got hit in the head with a rock.

When the police were trying to escort us out, they tried to get to us and started pushing the police and soldiers, who then had to push back. I've never been so frightened and saddened.

Eventually, we continued praying with only a few shouts from passersby and a few people looking on curiously. At one point when someone shouted "Nazis" at us, he was immediately rebuked by an Orthodox woman who told him to stop and said to him, "They're Jews!"

We did manage to finish praying, with one policeman keeping an eye on things.

At the conclusion, it was suggested by one of the sabras in our group that we sing "Hatikva." Wondering if there really is hope, we sang with tears in our eyes.

YOKOSUKA CITY, JAPAN
TUESDAY, JUNE 24 & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1997
9:00 A.M.

UNRESERVED 2 DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
SALE SITE: 1 CHOME HEISEI-CHO
YOKOSUKA-SHI KANAGAWA-KEN JAPAN
SITE PHONE: +81 468 240717 SITE FAX: +81 468 240719

DAY ONE
ROUGH TERRAIN CRANES: 2- 1991 Kato KR35H-3, 1989 Kato KR35H, 1991 Kobelco RK250H, 1994 & 1992 Tadano TR250M-5, Tadano TR250M-3, CRAWLER CRANES: 1992 Hitachi KH180-3, Hitachi KH125-2 35 Ton, IHI 1335-2A, Komatsu PW60C-1 2.9 Ton, 2 - 1989 Toa TC304 Mini, HYD. TRUCK CRANES: Kato NK160C, Kobelco T200, P&H T250M 25 Ton, Tadano TS70M 5 Ton, Tadano TL150, Tadano TR20L, Unic K50D-510 4.9 Ton, 31 - TRUCK TRACTORS: Fuso: W250 6x6, 2- 1988 FV415H 6x4, FV415H 6x4, FV215J 6x4, 1988 FP415D 4x2, 2 - FP415D 4x2, 1989 FP315D 4x2, Hino: 1989 SSS271A 6x4, 1988 SH691A 4x2, SH631A 4x2, H; 1754 4x2, Isuzu: 1989 EX221J 6x4, 1988 EX221J 6x4, EX221J 6x4, 1988 EXR21C 4x2, 2- EXR21C 4x2, EXR19C 4x2, Mitsubishi: 1988 FP449D 4x2, 1989 FP415D 4x2, Nissan: 1991 CW620GNT 6x4, 1989 CW67GT 6x4, CW66GT 6x4, 1991 CW610GNT 6x4, CW61GT 6x4, Unused - 1997 CK553BNT 4x2, Unused - 1997 CK551BAT 4x2, CK630BT 4x2, CK51BT 4x2, 127 - DUMP TRUCKS: Fuso: FW445M 6x4 Off Road, 4- FW419J 6x4, 3 - FW415J 6x4, FW413J 6x4, FW413J 6x4, FU415J 6x2, FK417E 4x2, FK415F 4x2, FK415F 4x2, 4 - FK315CD 4x2, 5 - FK315CD 4x2, 3- FG335BD 4x2, 3- FE315BN 4x2, FE315BN 4x2, FE315BD 4x2, 9 - FE315BD 4x2, 4 - FE111BD 4x2, Hino: 2 - FS630B 6x4, 6 - FS630B 6x4, FS600A 6x4, FS2FK 6x4, 4 - FS270B 6x4, FS270A 6x4, FP172B, FP172BA 4x2, GD175B 4x2, Isuzu: CXZ72J 6x4, CXZ19Q 6x4, 3 - CXZ19J 6x4, 3- CXZ19J 6x4, NFR12DD 4x2, NKR57ED 4x2, NFR12DD 4x2, 3 - NKR58E 4x2, NKR57ED 4x2, Mazda: 16 - P-Welan 4x2, 9 - P-Welan 4x2, Mitsubishi: FV415JD 6x4, 2 - FE315BD 4x2, Nissan: WG302 8x4 Off Road, 2- CW66HE 6x4, 2 - New - CW63AHV 6x4, CW610HV 6x4, New - CW55AHV 6x4, CW54HD 6x4, CW53HD 6x4, CW520HVD 6x4, CW520HV 6x4 Cargo, CW520HV 6x4, CD52H 6x2, CD520HN 6x2, CD46S 6x2, CM87H 4x2, CM87BD 4x2, CM87BA 4x2, CM87 Crewcab. TRUCKS INCLUDE: 28 - Cab & Chassis, Mixer Trucks, Concrete Pumper Trucks, Cement Bulk Trucks, Tank Trucks, Vacuum Trucks, Van Trucks, Boom Trucks, Flatbeds, Manlift/Bucket Trucks, Backhoe Trucks, Tow Truck, Ladder/Fire Trucks, Pressure Washing Truck, Customs Inspection Trucks, Car Carrier Truck, Power Light Trucks, Cable & Utility Trucks, Pickups, Buses, etc. TRAILERS INCLUDE: T/A Lowboys, End Dump, S/A Van Trailers, T/A Hiboys, Pole Trailers, etc. MISCELLANEOUS: 31-Boomlift/Manlifts, 31- Tower Lifts & Ladder Lifts, Scissorlifts, Walk Behind Rollers, Trenchers, 74- Generator Sets, Welders, 1993 Marunaka GWA22 Aeration Water Jet, Mopeds, Engine Chippers, etc.

DAY TWO
89 - CRAWLER TRACTORS: Cat: 1988 Cat D10N, 2 - D10, D9H, D9G, 1992 D8N, D8K, 8- D8H, D7F, 1989 D6H LGP, 2- 1988 D6H, D6C LGP, D6C, D5B, D5 LGP, D5, D3B, Komatsu: 1991 D475A-2, 1990 & 2- 1989 D375A-2, 1992 D275A-2, 2- 1991 D155A-2, 1992 D155A-1, D155-1, D150-1, 1991, 1990 & 1988 D85P-21, D85P-21, D85P-18, D85G-12, D80A-12, 1988 D65P-11, 1992 D60P-12, 1988 D60P-11, D60P-6, D60S-6, D60P, D60A-3, D60-3, 1989 D50P-18, D50P-16, D50P-15 LGP, 3 - D50P-15, D50A-16, D50A-15, 1988 D40P-11, 1990 D40P-5, D40P-3, D40P-1, 3 - D31P-18, D30P-F, D30P-12, D21Q-3, 2 - D21P-5A, 1989 D20P-6, 3 - 1988 D20P-6, 3 - D20P-6, D20P-5, 3 - D20A-5A, D20A-5, D20A, Mitsubishi: 2- 1988 BD2G, 2- BD2F, 2- BD2B, 59 - WHEEL LOADERS: Cat: 992, 988B, 1990 950E, 1991 910E, 1989 910B, 4- 1988 910, 3- 910, Furukawa: FL60-1, Hitachi: 1990 LX30, Kawasaki: 85Z-11, Kobelco: LK700A, 645, Komatsu: 1992 & 1991 WA500-1, WA450-1, 1993 WA350-3, 1989 WA350, 1988 WA200-1, 1993 WA100-3, 1988 WA100-1, 1994 WA50-3, 1988 WA30-2, WA30-2, JH90, JH65CV-2, JH60, Kouyoukikai: KYSL-600, Kubota: RA400, Mitsubishi: 1992 WS500A2, 3 - WS500, WS400-3, WS300A2, 3 - WS300A, 2 - 1988 WS300, WS200AZ, 3 - 1988 WS200, TCM: 1988 830, 808A, 50B, STD30, Yanmar: 1991 V34. INTEGRATED TOOL CARRIERS: 2- Cat IT12 CRAWLER LOADERS: Cat 973, Cat 963, 1989 Cat 953, Komatsu D60S-6, Komatsu D20S-5, Mitsubishi BS3F-1S, Mitsubishi BS3F. MOTOR GRADERS: Komatsu: 2 - GD405A-2, GD405A-1, GD305M, GD37-5H, GD31-3H, GD30-4, Mitsubishi: MG350, MG300-3G, MG200-2G, 143 - EXCAVATORS: Cat: 1996 320, 2 - 1994 & 1992 320, 1994 & 1993 312, 1993 311, 1991 245B Series II, 235B, 1991 EL300B, 1988 E300, 1988 EL240, 1988 E200B, 1992, 1991 & 1988 E120B, 1991 & 1988 E110B, 1988 E110, 2 - 1991 E70B, 1988 E70, Ferex: 2 - 1992 910C, Hanic: 1993 & 1992 S&B800, Hitachi: 1991 EX700H, 1993 EX300LC, 1993 EX200-3, 1994 & 1991 EX200-2, 8 - EX200-1, 1993 EX120-2, 2- EX100-2, EX90, 4- EX60UR, 1992 EX60UR, 1990 EX60GBL, 3- EX60G, 6- EX60, UH045-7, UH025-7, UH20, 2 - UH09-LC-7, UH07LC-7, UH07-3, UH04-7, IHI: HS085A, Kato: 2- Unused - 1992 HD800V2, 5 - 1988 HD400SEV, Kobelco: K903A, Unused - 1993 SK200, 1991 SK100W, 1993 SK60, SK10, SK09, 8- SK07N2, SK04-2, 4- SK03-N2, SK03, Komatsu: PC300-3, PC200LC-2, 1991 PC200LC, 5 - 1990 PC200-5, 4 - PC200-3, PC150-3, 2 - 1990 PC120-5, 1989 PC120-5, 2- PC120-3, PC120-2, 11 - PC100-5, 3- PC100-3, PC100-1, D75S-2, 1988 PC60-6, D53S-165, 20 HT, Mitsubishi: MS230-2, MS180-8, MS110-8, MS110-3, MS110-1, MS070-2, Nipon Seiko, Sumitomo: 1990 LS-1600F2, 2- 1990 Sumitomo LS-1600F2, LS1200, 1996 SH200A2, S430-F2, 1989 S260-F2. MOBILE EXCAVATORS: Hitachi: 1992 EX100WD, Komatsu: 2 - 1988 PW100-3A, 10HW-2, PW100-1, 1988 PW60-3, 4 - PW60-3, Mitsubishi: MS080W, Yubani: TY45, 57 - MINI EXCAVATORS: including: Cat, Hitachi, Hammit, Kobelco, Kubota, Takeuchi & Yammer. FRONT SHOVEL: 1993 Broyt X52FT. ARTICULATED DUMP TRUCKS: 3- Mitsui ME985-T20. ROCK TRUCK: Komatsu HD325-5. VIBRATORY ROLLERS: Dynapac CH60, Dynapac CC21 Tandem, Komatsu JW32W-2, Sakai TV-40H. ROLLERS: Bomag: 4- BW121AC Combination, Dynapac: 6 - WP15WE Pneumatic, CS12, Kawasaki: KMR6 3 Wheel Steel, Komatsu: 13 - JW33-2 Pneumatic, Meilwa: 9 - MUC40W Combination, MG-6, Sakai: 2- TW41Combination, TV40HCombination, 2 - TG40 Combination, SW41 Combination. Watanabe: WNB Steel Wheel, 3 - 10 Ton 3 Wheel Steel. PAVERS: Hanta AF-250WS, 1988 Mitsubishi MF45VS, Mitsubishi MF36W, Niigata NFW225, Tokyo Koki MTF36, Tokyo Koki F50MVS2K. PULVERIZER: Rex SPDM Stabilizer. DRILLS: Furukawa HCR-C180 Crawler, 1991 Hitachi TH552ED Earth Drill, 2 - Hitachi Mud Pressure Shield Machines, 1989 Tokyo Ryuki CDH-700C Crawler. MISCELLANEOUS: 42- Forklifts, 21- All Terrain Dumpers, 28 - Compressors, 42 - Generator Sets, Welders, Hyd Hammers, Pull Scrapers, City Of Agricultural Equipment Including: Tractors, Rotary Mowers, Green Mowers, Aerifiers, etc. Golf Course Maintenance Equipment, Attachments, etc. OFFSITE SALE: Mitsubishi VCS4023GH, 3 Ton Straddle Crane Carrier, Mitsubishi FD180F11 Container Forklift.

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The Justice Center for Strategic Studies
 Tel Aviv University

Prospects for Creating a Regional Security Structure in the Middle East

Tuesday, June 17, 1997, 16:00 - 18:00, Tel Aviv University, Malka Brender Hall of Justice, Trubowicz Building

Chair, Prof. Zeev Maoz, Head of JCSS
 Panel discussion, with the participation of:

- * Dr. Dore Gold, JCSS (on leave), political advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
- * Mr. Uri Saviv, Former Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel, Director of the Peres Institute for Peace
- * Prof. Janice Gross Stein, University of Toronto

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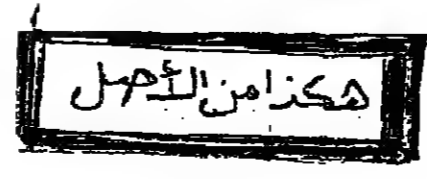
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CINEMA LISTINGS

2000 Continued from Page 1

JERUSALEM

CINEMATHEQUE 2 • Breaking the Waves 9:30 • The Girl Friday 10 • Planet Blue 12:30 a.m. Saturday: Toy Story 5 • Breaking the Waves 7:30 • The Stranger 8 • Madame Bovary 10 • Sleepers 10:30

G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mall (Maha) 85 Prskor St. Liar Liar Sat. 6:45, 11; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • The Saint-Wedding Bell Blues Sat. 8:45, 11; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Drive-Through Chamber Sat. 8:45, 11; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Marco Polo weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Space Jam weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Breakin' the Waves 7:30 • The Stranger 8 • Madame Bovary 10 • Sleepers 10:30

JERUSALEM THEATRE Box of Moonlight Mon.-Thu. 7, 9:30

RAV CHEN 1-7 Credit Card Reservations • 6792799 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Har'oman St., Tel. 02-6844341 Con Air Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco-Metro • Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • The English Patient Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • 101 Dalmatians Sat. 11 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • James and the Giant Peach • Homeward Bound II-Return of the JEDI Sat. 11 a.m. • Empire Strikes Back-Return of the Jedi • The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue) Sat. 11 a.m.

MEVASSERET ZION G.G. GIL 6792443 Shine-The Chamber Sat. 8:45, 11; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45

SMADAR 6581868 Sling Blade Fr. 10; Sat. weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Beautiful Thing Fr. 2:30, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 2:30 • Transporting Tim 12:30 a.m.

TEL AVIV DIZENGOFF 5101370 Head Above Water-Kolya-Blood and Wine Fr. 11 a.m., 1:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 10; weekdays 11 a.m., 3, 5, 7:45, 10

GAT Hamlet Fr. 9:45; Sat., weekdays 4, 8:30

GORDON The People vs Larry Flynt Sat., weekdays 5:30, 7:45, 10

G.G. HOD 1-4 6226228 Hod Passage, 10 Dizengoff St. Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Marco Polo Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Retic-The Chamber Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Space Jam-Liar Liar Sat. 1:30 a.m., 2, 5

LEV The English Patient Fr. 11 a.m., 2, 9:30, 12 midnight; Sat. 1:30, 4:45, 8:30, 10; weekdays 11 a.m., 1:45, 5, 8:30, 10 • Shine Fr. 12:30, 2:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 2, 4:30, 8; weekdays 11 a.m., 2, 8, 10 • Secrets and Lies Fr. 11:45 a.m., 9:45; Sat. 7:15, 10; weekdays 11:15 a.m., 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10 • A Self-Made Hero Fr. 2, 4:30, 7:15, 10; weekdays 4, 11:15 a.m., 12 noon; Sat. 11 a.m.; weekdays 4, 8, 10 • Breaking the Waves Fr. 9:30, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 11 a.m., 7; weekdays 5, 7, 9:45 • 101 Dalmatians Fr. 7:45; Sat. 11 a.m., 2:30, 5; weekdays 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Maximum Risk Fr. 7:45, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. Metro Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Jerry Maguire Fr. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. weekdays 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Empire Strikes Back-The Chamber Fr. 7:45, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10; Marco Polo weekdays 5

RAV-CHEN 5282288 Dizengoff Center Con Air Fr. 7:45, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • 101 Dalmatians Fr. 7:45; Sat. 11 a.m., 2:30, 5; weekdays 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Maximum Risk Fr. 7:45, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. Metro Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Jerry Maguire Fr. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. weekdays 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Empire Strikes Back-The Chamber Fr. 7:45, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Marco Polo weekdays 5

RAV-OR 1-5 5102674 Opera House Everyone Says I Love You-Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Sling Blade Fr. 9:45; weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Crash Fr. 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45

G.G. TEL AVIV 6281181

TEL AVIV MUSEUM When the Cats Away Fr. 10; Sat. 2, 8, 10; weekdays 5, 8, 10

HAIFA CINEMA CAFE AMANI 6326755 Secrets and Lies Fr. 10:15; Sat., weekdays 5:30 • Breaking the Waves Fr. 10:15; Sat., weekdays 9:30

GLOBECITY 6569900 Wedding Bell Blues-Liar Liar-Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • The Saint Sat. 11:30 a.m., 4:45; weekdays 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • The Chamber Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

MORIAH 6643654 Shine Fr. 10:15, 12:15 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 7, 9:30

ORLY 6881868 The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:30, 9:30; weekdays 8, 9:15

PANORAMA 6416898 Liar Liar Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 11 a.m., 5, 7, 9:30; weekdays 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Head Above Water Fr. 8, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. weekdays 7, 9:30 • Space Jam Sat. 11 a.m., 5; weekdays 4:30 • Kolya Fr. 8:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7, 9:30; weekdays 4:30, 7, 9:30 • The Nutty Professor Sat. 11 a.m.

RAV-GAT 1-2 6674311 Con Air-Metro Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7, 9:30; weekdays 4:30, 7, 9:15

RAV-MOR 1-7 8416898 Donnie Brasco-Con Air-Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7, 9:30, 12 midnight; weekdays 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Metro-Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. weekdays 9:30 • The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:30, 9:30; weekdays 6, 9:15 • 101 Dalmatians Fr. 7:45; Sat. 11 a.m., 7:15; weekdays 4:45, 7, 9:15 • Maximum Risk Fr. 7:45, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7; weekdays 5, 7 • It Takes Two-Return of the Jedi-Empire Strikes Back-The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue) Sat. 11 a.m.

RAV-OR 1-3 6248553 Donnie Brasco Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7, 9:30; weekdays 4:30, 7, 9:30 • Metro-Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Return of the Jedi-Homeward Bound II-Empire Strikes Back Sat. 11 a.m.

AFULA RAV CHEN 6424047 Con Air-Liar Liar Fr. 7:45, 10:15; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 7, 9:30 • The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:45, 9:45; weekdays 6:15, 9:15

ARAD STAR 9650904 Absolute Power-Drive Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Kolya Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • The Babysitter Fr. 7:45; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 5

ASHDOD G.G. GIL 8647202 The Saint-Drive Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Absolute Power Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Breaking the Waves Fr. 9:30, 12:30 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 6:30, 9:30

G.G. ORI 711223 The Chamber-Liar Liar Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10

RAV CHEN 6681120 Con Air-Metro Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Ghosts of the Past-Donnie Brasco-Absolute Power Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:45, 9:45; weekdays 6:15, 9:15

ASHKELON G.G. GIL 729977 Liar Liar-Drive-The Chamber Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • The Saint-Metro Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10

RAV CHEN Absolute Power Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Jerry Maguire Fr. 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Con Air-Metro Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:30, 9:30; weekdays 8:15, 9:15

BAT YAM RAV CHEN The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:45, 9:45; weekdays 6:30, 9:30 • Con Air-Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; week-

days 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Liar Liar Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 11 a.m., 7:30, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Metro Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Two Days in the Valley Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 9:45 • 101 Dalmatians Fr. 7:45; Sat. 11 a.m., 7:30; weekdays 5, 7:30 • Ghosts of the Past Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • Space Jam Fr. 7:45; Sat. 11 a.m., 9:45 • Return of the Jedi Sat. 11 a.m.

BEERSHEBA G.G. GIL 6440771 Drive Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 7:30, 10 • The Chamber-Shine Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Breaking the Waves Fr. 9:30, 12:30 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 6:30, 9:30 • Marco Polo weekdays 5 • Space Jam weekdays 4:45

G.G. ORI 6103111 Liar Liar-The Saint Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Wedding Bell Blues-Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10

RAV-NEGEV 1-4 6262678 Con Air Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 • The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:45, 9:45; weekdays 8:30, 10 • Donnie Brasco Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 8:30, 10 • Return of the Jedi-The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue)-Homeward Bound II-Empire Strikes Back Sat. 11 a.m.

EILAT GIL Beavis and Butt-head-Head Above Water-Liar Liar Fr. 5, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 7:30, 10

HADERA LEV Liar Liar Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 7:30, 10 • The English Patient Fr. 9:30, 12 midnight; Sat., weekdays 6:30, 9:30 • Con Air Fr. 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 7:45, 10 • Absolute Power Fr. 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 7:30, 10

HERZLIYA COLONY 6692666 Donnie Brasco-Everyone Says I Love You Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 12 noon, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10; weekdays 6:30, 7:45, 10

HOLIDAY The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 7, 10; weekdays 8:45, 9:45

STAR Liar Liar Fr. 7:45, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 7:30, 10 • Absolute Power Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 7:30, 10 • Con Air Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 7:30, 10 • Space Jam Sat. 11 a.m. • Empire Strikes Back Fr. 7:30; Sat. 11 a.m., 5

HOD HASHARON GIL Liar Liar-The Chamber-Con Air Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • The English Patient Fr. 9:30, 12:30 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 8:30, 9:30 • Space Jam Fr. 7:30; Sat. 11:30 a.m., 4:45; weekdays 4:45

KARMIEL CINEMA English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:45, 9:45; weekdays 6:15, 9:15 • Con Air-Absolute Power Fr. 7:45, 10:15; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 7, 9:30

KFAR SAVA G.G. GIL 787370 Liar Liar-Con Air-Wedding Bell Blues-Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 4:45 • The English Patient Fr. 8:30, 12:30; Sat., weekdays 6:30, 9:30

KIRYAT BIALIK G.G. GIL Metro-Drive Fr. 7, 9:30, 12 midnight; Sat. 7, 9:15, 11:45; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 7, 9:30, 12 midnight; Sat. 11 a.m., 7, 9:15, 11:45; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Space Jam Fr. 7; Sat. 7; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Head Above Water Fr. 9:30, 12 midnight; Sat. 7, 9:15; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Marco Polo Fr. 7; Sat. 7; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • The Saint Fr. 9:30, 12 midnight; Sat. 11 a.m., 7, 9:15, 11:45; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • The Chamber Fr. 7, 9:15, 11:45; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Shine weekdays 9:45 • Liar Liar Fr. 7, 9:30, 12 midnight; Sat. 11 a.m., 7, 9:15, 11:45; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Metro Fr. 9:45; weekdays 7:15, 9:45 • Sat. 11 a.m., 5

LOD S T A R 9246823 Absolute Power-Drive Fr. 10:30; Sat. weekdays 7:30, 10 • Maximum Risk Fr. 10:30; Sat. 7:30, 10; Sun.-Tue., Thu. 7:30, 10; Wed. 10 • Indian Movie Wed. 7

NETANYA G.G. GIL 1-5 6284522 Liar Liar-Wedding Bell Blues-Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Vartigo Fr. 9:45, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m. • The Chamber weekdays 7:30, 10 • Marco Polo weekdays 5

OR AKIVA RAV CHEN 8618570 Con Air Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:15, 9:45 • Return of the Jedi-The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue) Sat. 11 a.m.

OR YEHUDA G.G. GIL 1-4 6187121 Con Air-Liar Liar Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Space Jam Fr. 7:30; Sat. 11 a.m.

REHOVOT CHEN Sling Blade Fr. 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • A Self-Made Hero Fr. 9:45; Sat. 11 a.m., 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 7:30, 9:45 • Return of the Jedi-Empire Strikes Back-Homeward Bound II Sat. 11 a.m.

G.G. RAM 1-3 9340818 Mar. Polo-Ridicule-Marvin's Room Sat., weekdays 7:30

RAMAT HASHARON KOKHAV Kolya Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:15, 9:45 • Space Jam Fr. 7:30; Sat. 11 a.m.

NETANYA G.G. GIL 1-5 6284522 Liar Liar-Wedding Bell Blues-Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Vartigo Fr. 9:45, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m. • The Chamber weekdays 7:30, 10 • Marco Polo weekdays 5

RAMAT GAN RAV-GAN 1-4 6187121 Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:45, 9:45; weekdays 6:15, 9:30 • Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Space Jam Sat. 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Space Jam Sat. 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Space Jam Sat. 11:30 a.m., 2, 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10

RAV-OR 1-5 5102674 Opera House Everyone Says I Love You-Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Sling Blade Fr. 9:45; weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Crash Fr. 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45

RAV-OR 1-5 5102674 Opera House Everyone Says I Love You-Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Sling Blade Fr. 9:45; weekdays 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 • Crash Fr. 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 2:30, 5, 7:30; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45

HEICHAL HATARBUT Absolute Power Fr. 10; Sat., Sun.-Tue. 7, 9:15

UPPER NAZARETH

G.G. GIL Marco Polo-Shine-Liar Liar Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Beavis and Butt-head-Wedding Bell Blues Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Absolute Power-Drive-Con Air Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 4:30, 7:30, 10 • The English Patient Fr. 9:30, 12:30 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 6:30, 9:30

RA'ANANA

CIN MOFET Kolya Fr. 10; Sat. 9:30, Sun., Wed., Thu. 8:30

NETANYA

G.G. GIL 1-5 6284522 Liar Liar-Wedding Bell Blues-Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Vartigo Fr. 9:45, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m. • The Chamber weekdays 7:30, 10 • Marco Polo weekdays 5

RAV CHEN 8618570 Con Air Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:15, 9:45 • Return of the Jedi-The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Hebrew dialogue)-Homeward Bound II-Empire Strikes Back Sat. 11 a.m.

GIL Beavis and Butt-head-Head Above Water-Liar Liar Fr. 5, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 7:30, 10

RAMAT GAN

RAV-GAN 1-4 6187121 Absolute Power Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:15, 9:45 • The English Patient Fr. 10; Sat. 6:45, 9:45; weekdays 6:15, 9:30 • Ghosts of the Past Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45 • Donnie Brasco Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Beavis and Butt-head Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 11 a.m., 5, 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Space Jam Fr. 7:30; Sat. 11 a.m. • Homeward Bound II-Liar Liar Sat. 11 a.m.

RAV-OASIS 1-3 8730687 Con Air-Liar Liar Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45

RAMAT HASHARON

KOKHAV Kolya Fr. 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 3, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:15, 9:45 • Space Jam Fr. 7:30; Sat. 11 a.m.

OR AKIVA

RAV CHEN 8618570 Con Air-Liar Liar Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45

OR YEHUDA

G.G. GIL 1-4 6187121 Con Air-Liar Liar Fr. 7:30, 10, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • Absolute Power Fr. 7:15, 9:45 • Space Jam Fr. 7:30; Sat. 11 a.m.

PETAH TIKVA

G.G. HECHAL Con Air Fr. 10, 12:30 a.m.; Sat. 7:30, 10; weekdays 5, 7:30, 10 • Breaking the Waves Fr. 9:30, 12:30 a.m.; Sat., weekdays 6:30, 9:30 • Space Jam weekdays 4:45

REHOVOT

CHEN Sling Blade Fr. 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; Sat. 7:15, 9:45, 12:15 a.m.; weekdays 5, 7:30, 9:45 • A Self-Made Hero Fr. 9:45; Sat. 11 a.m., 7:30, 9:45; weekdays 7:30, 9:45 • Return of the Jedi-Empire Strikes Back-Homeward Bound II Sat. 11 a.m.

RAMAT GAN

RAV-MOR Absolute Power-Ghosts of the Past Fr. 7:30

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And also...
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Yaron Hasson - Guitar
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Uri Miles, Bagpipes
Or-Nili Azulai - Dancer
And jazz musicians

To request program and details, call 09-7743187, 09-7710925

Security increased at Israeli, US embassies in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP) - Thai police have tightened security at the US and Israeli embassies after a court upheld the death sentence of an Iranian man convicted of plotting to bomb Israel's embassy in 1994, newspapers reported yesterday.

Authorities took preventive measures to secure the embassies and diplomatic residences, fearing retaliation following an Appeals Court ruling affirming Hossein Shahriari Far's conviction last year for murder, intended sabotage, membership in a criminal gang and possession of bomb-making material.

The nature of the security measures was not specified. US Embassy officials refused to comment. A phone message at the Israeli Embassy said the mission was closed yesterday.

Witnesses identified Shahriari Far as the driver who abandoned a rental truck laden with explosives after an accident less than a kilometer from the Israeli Embassy. The strangled and beaten body of a rental company employee was found inside the truck.

Police experts said the bomb, similar to the one that severely damaged New York's World Trade Center in 1993, could have destroyed a large building.



Flying the flag
 Members of the Zionist Youth Council march down Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan carrying the national flag yesterday to protest the burning of the flag on Lag Ba'omer. (Yoram Loeff)

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 Opening Hours: Sun. Mon. Tues. Thurs. 9:30-17:30 Wed. 9:30-21:30 Fri. & Holiday eves 9:30-14:00 Sat. & Holidays 11:00-15:00. groups by advance reservation

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Report: Hizbullah has long-range Katyushas

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah probably possesses long-range Katyusha rockets - capable of reaching Haifa's bay-side suburbs - and may even have fired some of them during last April's Operation Grapes of Wrath, according to an article in the London-based *Foreign Report*.

The fortnightly newsletter said it had been informed at the time that a number of rockets had been fired deep into Israel - well beyond the 21 kilometer-range of the regular 122 mm. Katyusha.

These reports could not be confirmed at the time, the newsletter said. It noted, however, that officials in Israel began talking about the possibility that Hizbullah had acquired the long-range 240 mm. Katyusha rockets shortly after the operation ended.

Furthermore, according to the report, the IDF's Home Front Command was subsequently instructed to plan for the possibil-

ity of rocket attacks on Haifa's bay-side suburbs.

According to *Foreign Report*, the head of Hizbullah in south Lebanon Sheikh Nabil Kaouk recently gave a strong hint that the organization does possess the long-range rockets.

Kaouk claimed in a lengthy interview, published a month ago in the *An-Nahr* Lebanese daily newspaper, that Hizbullah, a year after Grapes of Wrath, was better prepared to deal with Israeli attacks and "come up with some surprises."

He also maintained that Israel stopped its air raids on Beirut during last year's cross-border fighting, because of "unmistakable signals" sent by Hizbullah to Israel - apparently in the form of the long-range Katyusha rockets.

Foreign Report said it had heard some time ago of longer-range Iranian-produced Katyusha rockets being in Hizbullah's hands, and it seemed that the organization had received more of them.

MA program starting in clinical embryology

By JUDY SIEGEL

The baby take-home rate of the country's two dozen in-vitro fertilization units is likely to rise significantly when the graduates of Israel's first MA program in clinical embryology and gametology reach the workplace.

Bar-Ilan University and the Herzliya Medical Centers (HMC) have announced the opening of such a program, one of the first three in the world. The 75 staffers of Israel's IVF clinics learned techniques on the job, as these developed and became much more sophisticated since the birth of the world's first IVF baby, Louise Brown, about two decades ago, said Dr. Yona Barak, HMC's chief biologist who has worked on the idea for two years.

Barak, national president of the Israel IVF Embryologist Society, says practical experience will be gained at the HMC's IVF lab. He expects the program to be taught in English and possibly Hebrew.

It has already attracted much interest from professionals in Turkey, and could be joined by Arabs from Middle Eastern countries as well, said Prof. Benjamin Bartoov, of Bar-Ilan, which will run the program's theoretical courses.

According to HMC president Dr. Aubrey Joffe, it's the first time that a private hospital has been accredited by an Israeli university to participate in a degree course. HMC has already helped establish IVF units in Russia and Turkey.

Similar programs have been started by Cambridge University in England and in Singapore, and another is due to open in Barcelona.

Barak says that staffers now working in IVF labs will be invited to take courses in the theoretical material, including the ethics of assisted reproductive technology, in order to earn MA degrees.

The majority of the applicants so far have been women, Bartoov said.

Man drowns off TA beach

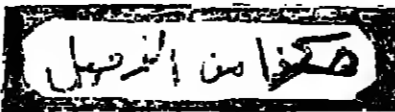
The body of a man washed ashore at Tel Aviv's Bogroshev Beach yesterday afternoon. The body was brought to the Abu Kabir Forensics Institute. It was determined that the man, in his 30s, had drowned and that there were no signs of violence on his body. Last night, police had still not succeeded in identifying the body. *Itim*

Eight hurt in car accident

Eight people were injured, one of them moderately and the others lightly, when a car and a van collided in Lod yesterday evening. Police have not yet determined the cause of the crash. *Itim*

Ben-Shabbat reelected Teachers' Union head

Avraham Ben-Shabbat was unanimously reelected to a second four-year term as the head of the Teachers' Union yesterday. *Jerusalem Post Staff*



Woman claims she was raped by Dutch soccer star Kluivert

AMSTERDAM (AP) — An AC Milan-bound striker Patrick Kluivert and three other men have been accused of raping a 20-year-old woman, and police said yesterday they were investigating the allegations.

A 20-year-old woman made a report to us of rape by four young men and one of those men was the well-known soccer player, police spokesman Klaas Widing said.

Kluivert, who has been questioned by police, was in South America with Ajax for a series of friendly matches. He has not been charged and is scheduled to return to the Netherlands today.

The player's attorney, Gerard Spong, denied that a crime was committed.

"My client and his friends have done absolutely nothing wrong," he said in an interview with the Dutch daily *De Telegraaf*, which broke the story yesterday. "The girl's accusation is invented from A-to-Z."

The accusation was the latest blot on the 20-year-old Dutch international's career, who received a sentence of 240 hours of community service in May 1996 after being convicted of vehicular homicide. The conviction came after Kluivert smashed a borrowed BMW into another car, killing the driver.

Kluivert helped Ajax to the 1996 European Champions Cup final,

scoring five goals in the tournament. He is moving to Milan next season.

His accuser, whose name was not released, also told her story to a Dutch supermarket tabloid, explicitly detailing what she described as a gang rape in Kluivert's apartment in Amsterdam on May 11.

The case is likely to hinge on whether any sex was forced or voluntary.

The woman claimed she was picked up by Kluivert and his friends outside an Amsterdam nightclub called Sinners and then taken by taxi back to Kluivert's apartment.

"They kissed me and then forced me into different sorts of sex," the woman told *Prive* magazine.

The magazine's editor, Wilma Nanninga, who interviewed the girl four times, said she had not paid for the story.

"The girl does not want money from Kluivert, she wants justice to be done," Nanninga said.

Police filed the accusation with the Amsterdam public prosecutor, who asked for further investigation before deciding whether to charge Kluivert. A conviction could bring a sentence of up to 12 years in prison, an expert on Dutch rape cases said.

Police spokesman Widing said Kluivert had a brief police interview but was not treated as a suspect at the time.

Surgeon: Graf could play again after all

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — The surgeon who carried out a two-hour operation on Steffi Graf's knee this week said yesterday the German could still play again if she put everything into the recovery process.

"She has always said she wants to go back to tennis, and she can do it, but it will need all her strength, self-discipline and toughness," said Reinhard Weinstabl, who carried out the operation in a Vienna clinic.

Weinstabl, who repaired damaged tendon and cartilage in Graf's left knee, said the operation had become unavoidable.

"The knee was already displaced to such an extent that she would soon have had problems even just with walking," he said, adding that the fact that the injury was an old one could lengthen the recovery process.

Graf has transferred to a private physiotherapy clinic at Gars am Kamp, 50 km northwest of the Austrian capital. Doctors expect the recovery to take four to six months, ruling her out of both remaining Grand Slam events this year, Wimbledon and the US Open.

Graf, who won the 1996 Wimbledon title, said she was surprised yesterday that the 27-year-old Graf, who has won 21 Grand Slam titles in her 16-year tennis career, had suffered over 60 injuries and illnesses during that time.

Under the headline "Steffi's Poor Old Body," the paper said Graf's injuries included broken fingers and toes, a torn shoulder, pulled upper thigh muscles, several dislocated back vertebrae and ripped stomach muscle fibers.

Reiffel makes impressive start with 3 for 15

NOTTINGHAM (Reuters) — Paul Reiffel started his tour impressively and fellow paceman Glenn McGrath showed encouraging signs of a return to form to lift the Australians yesterday.

The pair shared seven wickets as Nottinghamshire were bowled out for 239 on the second day of their three-day match at Trent Bridge, rain having prevented any play on Wednesday's scheduled first day.

Australia lost opener Michael Slater for 14 and were 51 for one at the close.

Reiffel struggled aside the fact he had not bowled for two months to capture three for 15 from his 10-over

spell, doing most of the early damage.

McGrath robbed New Zealand Test batsman Nathan Astle of a century by one run and scythed through the tail to finish with four for 63.

It was Reiffel who caught the eye, though, and with the erratic Brendan Julian conceding 70 runs in his 18 overs, the 30-year-old seamer must be the favorite to support McGrath and Mike Kasprovic in the second Test against England at Lord's next week.

Reiffel arrived on Tuesday, having been added to the tour party because of injury to Jason Gillespie, who has a strained hamstring, and Andy Bichel, who is to return home because of back trouble.

John Emburey retires from first-class cricket at age 44

LONDON (AP) — Former England spinner John Emburey announced his retirement from first-class cricket yesterday, ending a career spanning 30 years. He is 44.

The right-arm orthodox spinner played 64 Tests for England — one as captain — over a 17-year period, taking 147 wickets at an average of 38.40. In first-class cricket, he took 1,608 wickets and made 12,021 runs.

Emburey, who made his debut for England in 1978 after excellent performances for Middlesex, now coaches at Northamptonshire. He wants to devote more time and effort to his coaching role but will continue to play in one day games for Northants.

"I have had a marvellous career at the highest level and have enjoyed every minute of it," Emburey said.

"But I made it clear when I joined Northants that my career was going to revolve around coaching as the main priority."

"That is the direction I want to go in and it has been difficult combining playing and coaching responsibilities," he said.

Emburey will also be assistant coach to the England team which tours the West Indies and Sharjah this winter.

Jones quits as Derbyshire captain

LONDON (Reuters) — Dean Jones quit as Derbyshire captain and overseas player yesterday, with sacking room unrest and poor performances thought to be behind the decision.

"It's with deepest regret that I have informed Derbyshire County Cricket Club that I am resigning as captain and overseas professional throughout," the former Australian Test batsman said in a statement.

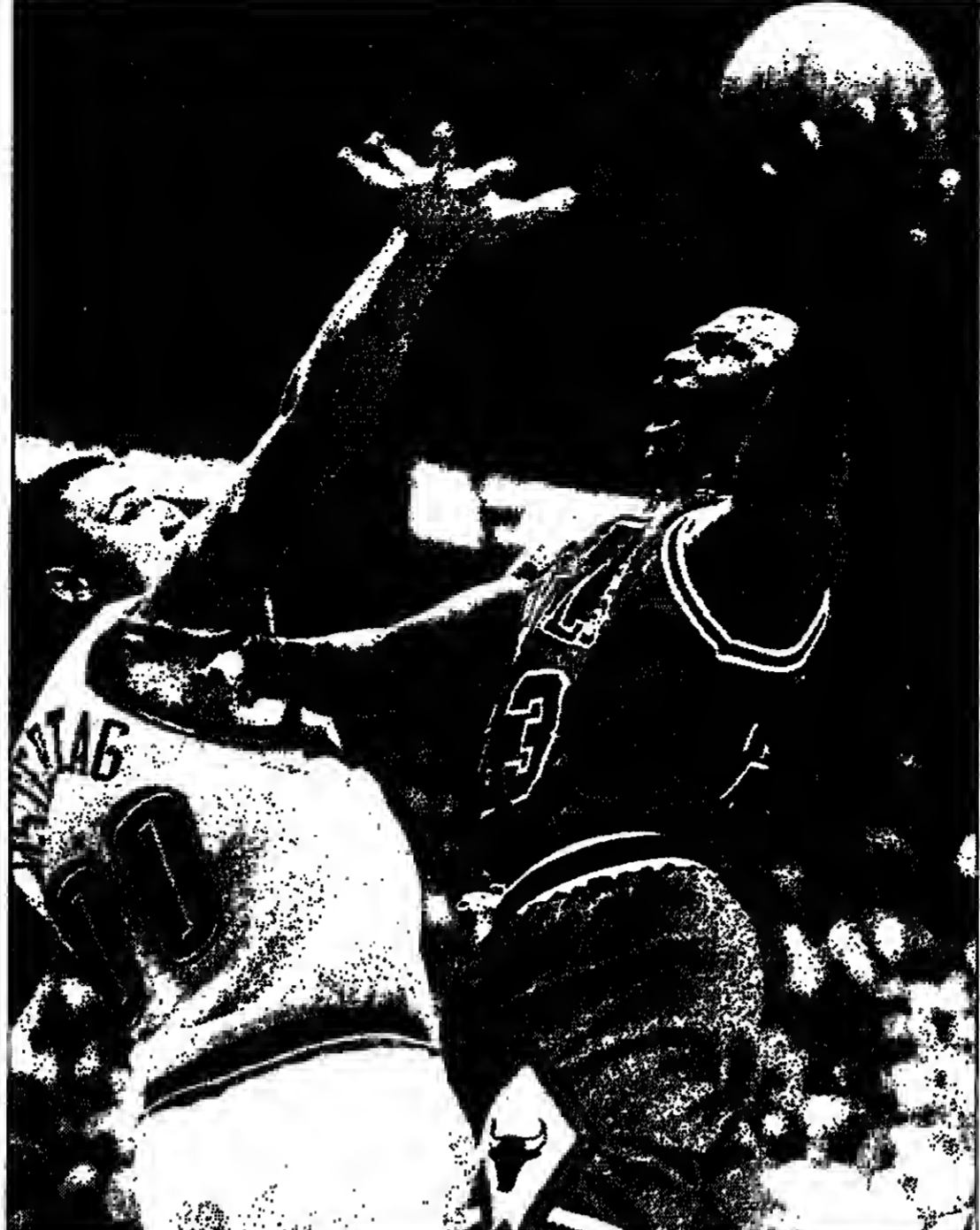
Jones, who last season led his team to second place in the county

championship, blamed a lack of support from senior players for the decision which he described as one of the toughest in his career.

"Over the past month a few senior players have failed to give me any support in my endeavors to carry on the Derbyshire CCC success from last year," he said.

"These players have difficulty in coming to terms with the fundamentals that bring success. Derbyshire currently lie second bottom in the 18-team championship.

Philip DeFreitas, the current vice-captain, has been appointed skipper for the next two matches.



ANY TIME, ANY PLACE — Michael Jordan sails to the hoop over Utah center Greg Ostertag in third quarter action of Game 5.

Jordan shrugs off illness, leads Bulls to within one win of title

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (Reuters) — Michael Jordan, so sick he could hardly stand, courageously carried the Chicago Bulls to a 90-88 victory over the Utah Jazz Wednesday that put the defending champions one win away from their fifth NBA title in seven years.

Jordan, playing all but four minutes of the game, scored 38 points, and hit a key 3-pointer with 25 seconds to go.

Asked to compare this game to his many other feats, the NBA's No. 1 superstar said: "This is probably the best in terms of what — I almost played myself into passing out. I came in and I was almost dehydrated and it was all just to win a basketball game."

"I gave a lot of effort and I'm just glad we won. Because if we'd lost, it would have been very devastating," Jordan, who was up vomiting all night Tuesday and stayed in bed all day Wednesday, also had seven rebounds and five assists as the best-of-seven Finals head back to Chicago for Game 6 Sunday, and if necessary, Game 7 today.

"He felt like he was gonna faint. I guess he was pretty dehydrated and just tired but he gutted it out," said Scottie Pippen, who was second high on the Bulls with 17 points, but shot just 5-of-17 from the floor.

"We owe this win to him. He did everything he could to carry us," Pippen said.

"Tonight we had a heroic effort by Michael," said Chicago coach Phil Jackson, "and a team that played with a little more resolve and we were able to fight back from the deficit in the first half and get the game back to where we could manage it."

"We had a good stretch run down the end and they didn't." Said Utah coach Jerry Sloan: "They showed why they're a championship team.

We have a tough assignment ahead of us."

The Jazz, seeking their first championship in their first NBA Finals, were led by Karl Malone's 19 points and six assists. Center Greg Ostertag came up big with 13 points and 15 rebounds. John Stockton also scored 13.

The Jazz, who had won their last 23 games at home, knew nothing about Jordan's sickness.

Utah's home record for the post-season ends at 10-1.

The Chicago win marked only the second road victory in the last 13 NBA Finals games.

After making only 5-of-12 free throw attempts in Game 4, the Bulls made 20-of-30. After getting on free throws in the previous game, Jordan made 10-of-12, along with 13-for-27 shooting from the floor.

The Bulls got more foul calls by not settling for outside shots. "We made a conscious effort in the last two days," Jackson said, "telling the guys that we had to limit our 3-point shooting. We were casting them too many 3-pointers, we had to get the ball back inside. I thought we look it back in." Utah led by as many as 16 points in the first quarter and was ahead for the majority of the game.

But the Bulls caught Utah for a final time at 85-85 when Jordan made 1-of-2 free throws with 46.5 left in the game.

On the second free throw — the miss — Chicago's Toni Kukoc tipped out the rebound to keep possession. "I didn't get a good body on Toni Kukoc and he was able to tip the ball around to Michael," Malone lamented.

It was costly, because Jordan hit a 3-pointer to put the Bulls in front 88-85.

An Ostertag shot down low cut the lead to 88-86, but with the Jazz

pressing fullcourt, the Bulls got the ball to Luc Longley under the basket for a jam and a 90-87 lead with six seconds to go.

Jeff Hornacek missed a potentially game-tying 3-pointer and Stockton made 1-of-2 free throws for the final score.

Stockton admitted that the Jazz had let a golden opportunity slip away.

"Yeah, yeah. This was a big game for us. And we had opportunities. We had a nice lead and we even had a nice little run there early in the fourth that we felt we could build on, and didn't take advantage of," Stockton said.

"We let it slip away," said Byron Russell. "Now we have to go to a hard thing, and that's win two straight over there."

CHICAGO (90)				UTAH (88)			
Pippen	17	7-9	17	Rodman	1-1	0-2	2
Longley	8	0-1	12	Jordan	13-27	10-23	8
Harper	7	2-4	0-5	Williams	2-8	3-6	7
Kerr	0-3	0-0	0	Kukoc	3-5	0-0	9
Buechler	0-0	0-0	0	Caffey	0-0	0-0	0
Totals	31-75	18-25	88	Totals	32-72	20-30	90
UTAH (85)				CHICAGO (90)			
Russell	4	10-0	11	Malone	17-5	9-19	19
Ostertag	8	8-11	12	Stocker	2-4	1-1	7
Stockton	5	10-23	13	Anderson	1-2	0-2	7
Easley	1-3	0-0	2	Morris	4-10	0-11	11
Foster	0-3	0-6	6	Carroll	2-4	0-0	4
Keefe	0-0	0-0	0	Totals	31-75	18-25	88
Chicago 16 33 33 23 - 90				Utah 29 24 19 16 - 88			
3-Point goals - Chicago 6-15				(Malone 3-4, Jordan 2-5, Harper 1-1, Kerr 0-2, Pippen 0-3), Utah 8-19 (Russell 3-5, Morris 3-5, Hornacek 1-4, Stockton 1-4, Malone 0-1). Fouled out - Rodman.			
Rebounds - Chicago 49 (Pippen 10), Utah 52 (Ostertag 15). Assists - Chicago 17 (Jordan, Pippen 5), Utah 21 (Malone 6).				Total fouls - Chicago 25, Utah 25.			
Technical fouls - Williams, Kerr, Stockton.				A-19, 911			

Clemens finally loses as Jays fall to Mariners

TORONTO (Reuters) — After winning his first 11 decisions with the Toronto Blue Jays, a rejuvenated Roger Clemens finally suffered his first setback of the season on Wednesday.

Jeff Fassero pitched 8 1/3 strong innings to lead the Seattle Mariners to a 5-1 victory over Toronto.

"It was a beautiful game, we had plenty of chances to stay close," said Clemens. "Bottom line is Jeff pitched great."

Fassero (6-2) allowed five hits and struck out seven, falling just two outs shy of his first American League complete game. Bobby Ayala recorded the final two outs.

"I had to concentrate a lot more because of the pitcher I was throwing against," Fassero said of Clemens. "It's by far the best I've thrown on in this league."

Clemens (11-1), who is tied with Bobby Jones of the New York Mets for the major league lead in wins, had won all but one of his previous 12 starts for the American League

Blue Jays.

Clemens was charged with four earned runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings. He walked three and struck out five.

National League					American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	42	22	.656	4	Baltimore	42	18	.700	0
Florida	37	26	.587	4 1/2	New York	36	27	.571	7 1/2
Montreal	35	28	.556	6 1/2	Toronto	29	31	.483	13
New York	35	32	.522	6 1/2	Detroit	29	32	.475	13 1/2
Philadelphia	21	41	.339	20	Boston	25	37	.403	18
Central Division					Central Division				
Houston	32	33	.492	-	Cleveland	32	27	.542	-
Pittsburgh	31	32	.492	-	Kansas City	29	32	.475	4
St. Louis	3	33	.091	47 1/2	Milwaukee	28	32	.467	4 1/2
Cincinnati	28	37	.431	4	Chicago	28	34	.452	5 1/2
Chicago	25	39	.391	6 1/2	Minnesota	28	35	.444	6
West Division					West Division				
San Francisco	35	28	.556	-	Seattle	34	29	.540	-
Colorado	35	9	.804	1 1/2	Anahim	33	29	.532	1
Los Angeles	31	22	.587	4	Texas	32	29	.526	1
San Diego	28	36	.438	7	Oakland	28	39	.415	9

Wednesday's NL games: Chicago Cubs 5, NY Mets 4; Colorado 9, Arizona 6; Florida 6, San Francisco 3; Montreal 4, Philadelphia 3; Cincinnati 2, Pittsburgh 1; Los Angeles 10, Houston 5; St. Louis 8, San Diego 3.

Wednesday's AL games: Seattle 5, Toronto 1; Detroit 4, Oakland 2; Kansas City 6, Anaheim 1; Boston 10, Baltimore 1; NY Yankees 7, Chicago White Sox 5; Cleveland 4, Milwaukee 3; Houston 9, Minnesota 6.

Montgomerie takes early lead at US Open

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP) — Colin Montgomerie handled the brutal Congressional Country Club with ease yesterday, shoning a 5-under-par 65 to take the early first-round lead at the 97th US Open.

The Scotsman was in his element at a US Open setup that demands accuracy and offers no breakers over the 7,213 yard (6,492 meters) course.

Montgomerie threatened to break the major championship record of 63 after getting to 6 under through 16 holes, but made his only bogey when he dumped a 7-iron into the greenside bunker at No. 17.

"The 7-iron at 17 I'd like to take back, but there's a lot I'd like to keep," Montgomerie said.

Montgomerie has always played the US Open well because of his accuracy from the tee. He finished third in 1992 at Pebble Beach, and lost in a three-way playoff at Oakland in 1994.

The 65 tied for his best score at the US Open. He shot a 65 in the second round at Oakland to take the lead at the halfway point.

Yesterday's round left Montgomerie 31 under par over his last six rounds, dating to a final-round 64 at the Volvo PGA Championship in Europe.

He won the European Grand Prix last week by closing with a 65.

Montgomerie missed only one

fairway, but still managed to save par — a rarity at Congressional because of rough so thick that marshals had to place a white flag by the ball to keep sight of it, even if it just trickled out of the fairway.

That set the challenge for Tiger Woods, who is trying to become the first player since Jack Nicklaus in 1972 to win the US Masters and the US Open in the same year.

He missed a 4-foot birdie on No. 1, birdied the 235-yard second hole from just under a 3 feet and then three-putted from 40 feet for bogey on No. 3. He got back to 1 under with a 25-foot birdie on the next hole.

Greg Norman, meanwhile, continued to struggle. Despite signs that his game was coming around, Norman managed a birdie at No. 17 to finish at 75.

Also at 75 were Fred Couples, Steve Elkington, Phil Mickelson and Davis Love III. All of them had the same problems — keeping the ball in play.

Only three other players were under par, including Woods at 1 under through four holes.

Nick Faldo started with three straight pars, including a 6-foot save from the bunker at No. 1.

Jack Nicklaus, playing in his 142nd consecutive major and 41st straight US Open, made the turn at 1 under 34 and finished at 3-over 73.

Ivanisevic, Sampras through at Queen's

LONDON (Reuters) — Goran Ivanisevic brushed aside the challenge of Britain's Martin Lee at Queen's Club yesterday and then privately focused his sights on the Wimbledon title he so covets.

The third-seeded Croat left-hander blitzed former junior world No. 1 Lee on an overcast center court 6-1, 7-5 to reach the last eight of the \$700,000 London grasscourt championships, showing the composure often lacking in his previous bids to capture the top prize at Wimbledon.

Top seed Pete Sampras had an even easier route to the quarter-finals when his opponent, New Zealand's Brett Steven, withdrew suffering from a stomach bug and handed the world No. 1 a third-round walkover.

Sampras now meets Swede Jonas Bjorkman, who ousted Frenchman Stephane Simon 6-4, 7-5.

British fourth seed Jim Henman was sent spinning out of the tournament by world No. 105 Jens Knippschild. The peroxide-haired German thumped Henman 7-6, 6-3.

British hopes are not totally dashed, however. Greg Rusedski, seeded 16, swept to a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Australian Scott Draper, who dispatched second seed Michael Chang in Wednesday's second-round match.

He now meets French Open semifinalist Pat Rafter, who came from a set down to beat former world No. 1 Jim Courier 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Knippschild will be hoping to follow up his best-ever victory with a win over huge-serving Mark Philippoussis in the quarters.

The Australian sixth seed came through safely against Zimbabwean Byron Black 6-3, 6-3.

An all-French affair saw Jerome Golmard squeeze past Jean-Philippe Fleurbaun 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 and his reward is a quarter-final clash with Ivanisevic.

Attorney: Mary Slaney is a 'sacrificial lamb'

INDIANAPOLIS (Reuters) — Mary Slaney has been made "a sacrificial lamb" in her fight against an IAAF doping rule that discriminates against women, her attorney said Wednesday after the American distance star was suspended by US officials for an alleged positive drug test.

The decision prohibits the queen of American running from participating in the national championships, which began here Wednesday. She also could be forced to forfeit her silver medal from the women's 1,500 meters at the March world indoor championships if further US hearings fail to exonerate her.

"But we are going to get her cleared," her attorney, Jim Coleman, said in an interview. "And part of her legacy may be that in addition to her track career that she got rid of this rule." Under the rule, which led to Slaney's suspension, a testosterone to epitestosterone ratio of more than 6-10 is deemed suspicious and an athlete may be suspended.

"It's a bad rule, and it is going to be removed in this country, and I hope we will have it thrown out internationally," Coleman said.

"A lot of people have been and are going to be damaged by this rule, and Mary is sort of the sacrificial lamb, because she is the first really big-name person to be caught up in this." Coleman said he had asked the US Olympic Committee to declare that the rule discriminates against women and therefore would be in violation of the US Amateur Sports Act, a federal law.

"The ratio hasn't been validated for women," said Coleman, a Duke University law professor. "It is based on research done on men. What research has been done on women indicates that the rule is not valid." Slaney's ratio was found to be above the 6-10 level in a test at the US Olympic trials last summer, and two weeks ago the IAAF suspended her, pending the outcome of US hearings into the case.

On Tuesday night, a US panel also suspended Slaney and declared her ineligible for the national championships, which also makes her ineligible for the Chicago world championships.

US won't give Johnson wild card to world championships

INDIANAPOLIS (Reuters) — USA Track and Field's executive committee decided yesterday that it would not change the American selection process for the world championships team by issuing "wild card" entries to double Olympic champion Michael Johnson and other injured US stars.

But US track officials said it would welcome the IAAF inviting all 1995 world champions to defend their titles in Athens in August. That would include Johnson, decathlete Dan O'Brien and women's sprinter Gwen Torrence, who are all missing this week's national meet because of injuries.

"We decided there was no legal way that we could change our selection process," USATF first vice president Bill Roe said after the committee meeting.

"It is up to the IAAF to initiate the process." Whether the world governing body would do that is uncertain.

IAAF spokesman Giorgio Reineri, speaking from Monaco before the US action, said: "The IAAF could consider the possibility of giving them a wild card or invitation."

Many nations reserve places on their Olympic and world championships teams for their elite athletes. But under strict US qualifying rules, only those who finish in the top three at the US championships are eligible for the American team.

"The US selection process has produced the best teams in the world," USATF president Pat Rigo said in a statement.

"We have dominated every Olympics since 1956 and we've won every world championships since the first meet in 1983. We will not change our selection process."



Hebrew Book Week

Children look through the latest offerings at Jerusalem's Safra Square, where publishers and booksellers set up stalls for Hebrew Book Week which opened yesterday throughout the country. (Brian Henkel)

Cause of meningitis in Gaza unclear

Israeli team meets with PA officials

By JUDY SEGEL

Most of the meningitis cases reported in the Gaza Strip during the past six months have been of the more benign viral variety and affected children aged two to four. This was revealed in a meeting yesterday between medical teams from the Health Ministry and the Palestinian Authority. The Israeli team, which returned from the Erez checkpoint to report back to Health Minister Yehoshua Mazza, said none of the affected children were older than 10.

The cause of the infection, said Dr. Yitzhak Sever, health liaison to the PA, is unknown, but it is possible that the disease was spread by children's food, including milk

powder and ice cream reaching the autonomous areas. These foods do not reach Israel, he stressed.

As a result of the outbreak, which has so far affected 300 since January (150 of them in the past three weeks), the official in charge of public health in the PA called Health Ministry experts for consultations. The two teams worked "in full cooperation" and carried out a professional epidemiological study in the field, the ministry said.

Samples of spinal fluid taken from the children will be sent for examination at the ministry's central viral lab at Sheba Hospital. There, the specific pathogen will be identified during the next two weeks.

Due to fears that the source of infection was children's food, it was decided that the PA would carry out comprehensive tests of food products. PA officials will have an open line for consulting with Israeli experts whenever needed.

Ministry experts ruled out the need to stop the entry of Palestinian workers into Israel because the infection has affected only young children, and has struck inside Israel as well. During the first half of 1996, there were 77 reported cases inside Israel of viral meningitis, and 99 so far this year.

WEATHER

Golan	14-22
Haifa	18-25
Tiberias	18-30
Afula	17-29
Samaria	18-24
Tel Aviv	19-25
Jerusalem	15-24
Beerseheba	17-29
Dead Sea	25-34
Eilat	24-34

Forecast: Partly cloudy with a chance of rain. Shabbat: Partly cloudy to clear. No change

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather
Amsterdam	15	20	partly cloudy
Beijing	17	27	partly cloudy
Cairo	19	30	clear
Copenhagen	13	24	clear
Geneva	15	24	clear
Hong Kong	26	32	cloudy
London	16	21	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	24	clear
Madrid	18	28	clear
Manila	25	31	cloudy
New York	15	22	cloudy
Paris	15	20	cloudy
Sydney	17	23	cloudy
Tokyo	18	24	clear

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Key Events: 1997 Global Board of Trustees Meetings and "Jewish Identity Leadership Mission" to Israel, Prague & Basel

Monday, June 16

Dedication of the Frank and Vilma Martin (Szusz) Land of Israel Studies Department

Convocation Ceremony Conferring Honorary Doctorates upon

Lorenz Cederbaum Yosef Kapach
Donald J. Cohen Mira Koschitzky
Menachem Elon Natan Sharansky
Isidore Falk

Keynote Address: Elyakim Rubinstein, Attorney General of the State of Israel (7:30 pm, Bob Shapell Amphitheater on campus. Public invited. RSVP to tel. 03-531-8513)

Tuesday, June 17

Reception at the President's Official Residence, Jerusalem

Dedication of the Aharon and Rachel Dahan Family Exodus Classroom Building

Dedication of the Rabbi Harry Wohlberg Chair in Biblical Commentary

Wednesday, June 18

Dedication of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Hall of Human Rights

Dedication of the Jack and Pearl Resnick Institute for Advanced Technology Building

Thursday, June 19

Convening Conference of the International Center for Jewish Identity

Friday, June 20

Ceremony Conferring a Doctorate, Honoris Causa upon Mr. Vaclav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, in Prague

Tuesday, June 24

Finals of the International Competition on Jewish Identity for Jewish youth from Israel and the Diaspora. Sponsored by Bar-Ilan University.

Bar-Ilan University



Israel 23rd in quality of life

By MARILYN HENRY

In an international ranking of quality of life, Israel is sandwiched between Hong Kong and Cyprus, according to the UN Human Development Index published yesterday in New York.

Canada, France, Norway, the US and Iceland had the highest ratings, according to the survey, which was conducted by the UN Development Program. The index used 1994 data on per capita income, education and life expectancy to calculate the rankings. Israel, straddling the line between industrial and developing nations, was ranked 23, below Greece and Italy, but above Singapore, Chile, South Korea and Argentina.

The highest ranking Arab states were Brunei Darussalam (38), Bahrain (43) and United Arab Emirates (44).

The UN index showed uneven progress around the globe. Economic growth has raised the standard of living for 1.5 billion people. Adult illiteracy has been halved. Infant mortality has been cut by nearly three-fifths, and more than three-fourths of the world's population is expected to live to the age of 40.

The index fell in 30 countries. There was a stunning deterioration in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, where 120 million people live in poverty, compared to 4 million in 1988, the report said.

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PA: US vote on capital declaration of war

Palestinians yesterday described as a declaration of war a non-binding US House of Representatives resolution calling on President Bill Clinton to reaffirm that Jerusalem must remain Israel's "undivided capital."

"This decision will leave a dark shadow on security and stability in the Middle East and in Palestine. It is a clear call for violence and settlements at the same time," said Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, general secretary of the Palestinian Authority cabinet.

"Recognizing the annexation of Jerusalem to Israel and opening an embassy there without recognizing east Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine is a declaration of war on the Palestinian people," he said. (Reuters)

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